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Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991

SUMMARY

The present report, prepared by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), presents an overview of the activities of ACC and its subsidiary machinery in 1991. The report contains a foreword by the Secretary-General, the Chairman of ACC, and three sections dealing with different aspects of the work of ACC.

The first section of the report relates the actions taken by ACC with regard to the major substantive issues to which priority was given during 1991: development and international economic cooperation; the impact of the recent evolution in East-West relations; African economic recovery and development; emergency and humanitarian relief and assistance; environment and development; and operational activities for development. The second section concerns financial, administrative and personnel issues. Other matters, including action taken by ACC regarding programme matters, implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and ACC, coordination in the mineral and energy sectors, the prevention and control of AIDS, international drug abuse control, the Chernobyl accident, assistance to Namibia, implementation of the commitments made at the World Summit for Children, and industrial development, are dealt with in the third section of the report.

The report also has four annexes and an addendum. The annexes contain lists of ACC decisions, reports and statements submitted by ACC to intergovernmental bodies, meetings convened under ACC auspices and documents issued by ACC in 1991. The addendum contains brief summaries of the activities in 1991 of the subsidiary bodies of ACC and of the ad hoc bodies convened under its auspices.

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In 1991, ACC monitored the performance of the world economy and emphasized the need for international action to stimulate growth and development. ACC noted that growth in the 1990s would be linked to the availability of finance and stressed that a durable solution to the debt crisis was required. Debt relief to the poorest countries should not be further delayed. ACC was apprised of the status of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and reiterated the importance of multilateralism in international economic affairs and a successful conclusion of the Round. ACC was also fully informed of the preparations for the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). ACC also devoted considerable attention to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the organizations of the United Nations system and to the follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

In 1991, ACC considered the economic and other impacts of the transitions currently under way in Central and Eastern European countries and the former Soviet Union. ACC focused on the role of United Nations organizations in facilitating the process of change. ACC was of the view that immediate attention should be devoted to problems emerging in the short term. ACC noted that current levels of official development assistance (ODA) may not be adequate to meet the needs of the developing countries and the countries in transition.

In 1991, ACC reviewed major initiatives and actions undertaken by the United Nations system in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. ACC was informed of and noted the proposed mechanisms for the final review and appraisal of the Programme and of the proposed structure and outline of the report of the Secretary-General. ACC welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 46/151, which contained the final review and appraisal of the Programme of Action and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

The timely and effective provision of emergency and humanitarian relief and assistance continued to be one of the major preoccupations of ACC in 1991. ACC adopted a statement expressing its gravest concern at the deteriorating conditions on the continent of Africa. On behalf of the entire United Nations system, the Secretary-General issued an appeal in May 1991 to the international community for support of humanitarian and relief operations in order to quickly alleviate the suffering in Africa. ACC welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of an Executive Delegate in the context of a United Nations Inter-agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and Iraq/Turkey and Iraq/Islamic Republic of Iran. The Executive Delegate apprised ACC of the situation in those areas and ACC underscored the urgency of the international community addressing the needs of the refugees and displaced persons and reiterated the commitment of the organizations of the United Nations system to respond to that crisis in an effective and coordinated manner. In 1991, ACC also reviewed the capacity of the United Nations system for early warning regarding new flows of refugees and displaced persons.

In 1991, ACC considered a number of issues related to the environment, particularly the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992, climate change, desertification and the environmental consequences of the Chernobyl accident and of the Kuwait-Iraq conflict. ACC stressed that environment must be recognized as an integral part of sustainable development and the sectoral policies that would emanate therefrom. ACC reviewed the state of preparations for the Conference and heard progress reports of the Secretary-General of the Conference at both its regular sessions. Members of ACC reiterated their strong commitment to and support for the Conference. Preparations for the Conference continued to draw upon the expertise and experience of the entire United Nations system through working parties established on the major issues before the Conference. ACC was also kept informed of the activities and results of the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee For a Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Regarding operational activities for development, the present report provides details on the activities undertaken by ACC in 1991. ACC has focused its attention on efforts to improve the overall coherence, cost effectiveness and impact of operational activities. In this connection, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 has been a major priority.

In 1991, the first ACC report on programmes and resources of organizations of the United Nations system was prepared. The ACC programme classification was also revised. The revised classification, which was adopted by ACC and will be utilized as at 1 January 1992, will provide the framework for the next ACC report on programmes and resources, to be submitted to CPC, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1993.

With regard to personnel issues, which ACC considered at both of its regular sessions, ACC presented statements to both the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the General Assembly, focusing attention on the need to ensure competitive levels of remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories and on the continuing instability of the United Nations common system employment conditions. The need for predictability in the management of those conditions of service was emphasized. The management of the margin between United Nations salaries and those of the comparator was a high priority for ACC, which continued to hold the view that freezes of post adjustment were unacceptable and indefensible at a time when the comparator civil service had recognized that the salaries of its civil servants were not competitive.

Regarding financial issues, in 1991 ACC concentrated on a number of issues of both a technical and a more general nature. The financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system continued to cause concern in 1991 and to have serious implications for the planning and implementation of programme activities. System-wide statistics on the payment performance of individual contributors were assembled, along with data on the effects of the incentive and penalty schemes introduced in some organizations to speed up collection of assessed contributions.

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Abbreviations

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
CCAQ (FB)	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
CCAQ (PER)	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions)
CCSQ (OPS)	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities)
CCSQ (PROG)	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters)
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
ODA	Official development assistance
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

I. MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION IN 1991

A. Development and international economic cooperation

1. In 1991, ACC continued to monitor the state of the world economy and to review critical issues relating to development and international economic cooperation. Particular emphasis was given to the prospects of the developing countries. ACC noted that the recovery of the world economy remained fragile, which pointed to the need for international action to stimulate growth and development.

2. During 1991, ACC was regularly briefed on the preparations for the eighth session of UNCTAD. ACC was of the view that the UNCTAD meeting presented an opportunity to reinvigorate the North-South dialogue and to make genuine progress on a wide range of international economic issues.

3. In 1991, ACC was also regularly informed of the status of negotiations under the Uruguay Round. The importance of a successful conclusion of the trade negotiations was stressed and ACC again underlined the crucial importance of multilateralism in international economic affairs. A reduction in protectionist measures would not only facilitate trade but would also increase efficiency, reduce government deficits and release funds for more productive activities.

4. As has been the case for a number of years, ACC considered the debt issue, on which it was briefed by UNCTAD and the international financial institutions. While recognizing that significant progress has been achieved under the continuously evolving international debt strategy, many ACC members were of the view that debt relief should be extended to a larger number of restructuring countries in order to allow growth to resume. Debt relief to the poorest countries could not be delayed further. The terms recently granted to Egypt and Poland need to be extended to other indebted countries on a case-by-case basis.

5. ACC recognized that growth in the 1990s would be linked to domestic policies, and also to the availability of finance and, in the latter connection, welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the convening of an international conference on the financing of development.

6. In 1991, ACC devoted considerable attention to the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the organizations of the United Nations system. The organizations viewed the Strategy as a framework to which their development activities could be related and pledged continuous efforts to enhance coordination so that the organizations of the system could collectively make the maximum contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategy. ACC continued to stress that human development should be at the heart of growth and poverty reduction programmes. While welcoming the emerging consensus on development strategies,

which included recognition of the role of market forces, ACC was of the view that issues of social justice and equity should remain high on the international development agenda.

B. Impact of recent evolution in East-West relations

7. In 1991, ACC continued to monitor the impact of evolving East-West relations. ACC was particularly preoccupied with the economic and other implications of these sudden and far-reaching political developments. The transformation of planned economies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union into pluralistic market economies is having a broad impact, through trade and finance, on relations between East and West. But these transformations will also affect other parts of the global economy. ACC continued to be concerned with the role of United Nations organizations in facilitating the process of change.

8. ACC reviewed and discussed the economic reforms being implemented in the Central and Eastern European countries and the former Soviet Union. The reforms contemplated are promising and are expected, in time, to yield significant economic growth, but this will not happen in the short to medium term. However, the task of converting a planned economy into a market-oriented one is immense and will take time, commitment and forbearance on the part of the population. It will also call for considerable outside assistance and access to markets for goods and services in the industrialized countries to alleviate the adjustment burden and to firmly anchor the market orientation as soon as circumstances permit.

9. Judging by the results obtained thus far and the daunting transformation problems that lie ahead, the competitive position of these countries in world markets is not likely to change dramatically in the near future. Yet, in the long term, there will undoubtedly be beneficial effects from the integration of these countries into the multilateral trading system.

10. ACC was of the view that immediate attention should be devoted to problems emerging in the short term. A major focus of attention for ACC was the impact of these changes on multilateral cooperation, particularly the implications for developing countries. ACC continued to be concerned that current levels of official development assistance might not be adequate to meet the needs of the developing countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. It was noted, moreover, that the resources of the multilateral agencies, the World Bank in particular, have not yet been sufficiently increased to maintain levels of lending to developing countries, while at the same time raising appropriations for the countries whose economies are in transition. Moreover, ACC noted that the resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were being drawn by the reforming countries to a larger extent than would have been the case without the revolutions that began in 1989. These demands on Fund resources were at this stage unlikely to inhibit financing of the balance-of-payments requirements of other members. However, if substantial structural adjustment loans were to

be forthcoming to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Fund resources would not be adequate to meet the legitimate needs of its members. This issue deserved the most serious consideration by the international community. In this connection, ACC welcomed the high-level debate during the second regular session of 1991 of the Economic and Social Council on the impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries.

C. African economic recovery and development

11. In 1991, ACC reviewed the major initiatives and actions taken by the United Nations system in implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. This review represented the beginning of the process of the final review of the Programme of Action by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and came also in response to the recent decisions by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, expressing concern about the deteriorating economic situation in Africa and the need for sustained support by the United Nations system for Africa. ACC was also informed of and noted the proposed mechanisms for the final review and appraisal of the Programme of Action and of the proposed structure and outline of the report of the Secretary-General on the final review and appraisal of the Programme of Action.

12. ACC was of the view that the final review of the Programme of Action offered yet another opportunity for renewing the commitment of the international community to support Africa's own efforts to achieve self-sustaining socio-economic growth and development, and to refocus world attention on the socio-economic difficulties that continue to face the African countries.

13. The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, contained in the annex of General Assembly resolution 46/151, reflects a mutuality of commitment and accountability on the part of Africa and the international community. In this regard, Africa is committed to the "implementation of policies for the transformation of the structure of its economies in order to achieve growth and development on a sustained and sustainable basis". The specific areas of commitment include promotion of regional and subregional economic cooperation and integration; intensification of the democratization process; creation of an enabling environment for investment promotion; improving the human dimension; promotion of environmentally sustainable development; integration of population factors into the development process; and the pursuit of policies and strategies to integrate the rural economies into their national context, achieve food security and strengthen self-reliance in food.

14. The international community "commits itself to assisting Africa in its efforts to achieve accelerated growth and human-centred development on a sustained and sustainable basis". Specific support covers the areas of tackling Africa's external debt problem; provision of adequate resource flows

to Africa; effective support for efforts to diversify commodity exports and boost export earnings; and support for the diversification of the African economies and for regional economic integration, environment and science and technology.

15. Through collaboration among the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, ACC stands ready to assist in the implementation, evaluation, assessment and monitoring of the New Agenda.

16. In 1991, ACC was also concerned with the preparation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development. The framework for the system-wide plan of action was prepared and endorsed by CPC at its thirty-first session.

17. The plan of action will derive from the African strategies for socio-economic development and will utilize the framework of the New Agenda for Africa. It will provide a basis for coherent and coordinated actions by agencies and organizations of the United Nations system in support of the sustainable development and transformation in Africa.

D. Emergency and humanitarian relief and assistance

18. The timely and effective provision of emergency and humanitarian relief and assistance continued to be one of the major preoccupations of ACC during 1991. At its first regular session, ACC was apprised by its working group of the situation on the continent of Africa and adopted a statement expressing its "gravest concern at the deteriorating conditions on the continent of Africa, where tens of millions of people, many of whom are refugees and internally displaced persons, are now threatened with starvation. These countries face an ongoing emergency which could reach catastrophic proportions". On behalf of the entire United Nations system, the Secretary-General issued an appeal in May 1991 to the international community for support for humanitarian and relief operations in order to quickly alleviate the suffering. Later, in response to the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa, the Secretary-General asked the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) to lead an inter-agency mission to the area from 11 to 16 June 1991 to assess immediate requirements for humanitarian assistance and the means of expediting its mobilization and distribution in the Horn of Africa. On the basis of the findings of the report, the Secretary-General convened meetings of donors in New York and Geneva to urge a prompt and adequate response. A Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa was established under the authority of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, drawing on staff seconded from the concerned operational entities of the system.

19. At its first regular session, ACC also reviewed the difficult and tragic situation of refugees and displaced persons in Iraq and neighbouring countries and was apprised by the Executive Delegate of his assessment of the situation in Iraq. Even though world attention had been focused on the plight of the

Kurdish and Shiite populations, ACC emphasized the fact that the entire civilian population of Iraq at that time was at risk. ACC underscored the urgency for the international community to address the needs of those 20 million people and reiterated the commitment of the organizations of the United Nations system to respond to that crisis in an effective and coordinated manner.

20. In this regard, ACC welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of an Executive Delegate in the context of a United Nations Inter-agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and Iraq/Turkey and Iraq/Islamic Republic of Iran and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations. ACC noted that the Executive Delegate would evaluate the needs of the affected civilian populations and design a comprehensive programme of assistance, in collaboration with the organizations of the system.

21. During 1991, ACC also reviewed the capacity of the United Nations system on early warning regarding new flows of refugees and displaced persons and decided to designate the Office for Research and the Collection of Information of the United Nations Secretariat as the focal point for early warning and the strengthening of cooperation on information-gathering, analysis and dissemination among United Nations organizations, agencies and programmes on new flows of refugees and displaced persons. ACC established an ad hoc working group to develop an effective early warning system related to possible new flows of refugees and displaced persons, including practical measures of cooperation and procedures for gathering, analysing and disseminating information in a timely manner to all concerned, and to make recommendations on the need for an inter-agency consultative mechanism.

22. The Secretary-General apprised ACC at its second regular session, of his report on the strengthening of coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance. In preparing the report, the Secretary-General set up a task force of all concerned organizations and entities of the United Nations system to assist him, in particular, with the formulation of the recommendations.

23. In 1991, ACC was also apprised of the progress made in the implementation of the programme of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

E. Environment and development

24. Environment continued to be a key issue on the agenda of ACC during 1991. ACC considered a number of topics related to environment, including the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, climate change, desertification and the environmental consequences of the Chernobyl accident and of the Kuwait-Iraq conflict.

25. ACC noted that the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment are increasingly seen in the context of economic development. Environment is increasingly recognized as an integral part of

sectoral policies. ACC is aware that there must be intensified coordination within the United Nations system to promote action for environmentally sound development, in particular to better relate international economic cooperation to international environmental cooperation, and to national action for environmentally sound development.

26. ACC remains committed to ensuring that global environmental issues are approached in a coordinated manner and within a wide context through the contribution of all organizations and bodies of the system. In order to ensure effective implementation of environmentally sound and sustainable development policies, additional resources, both financial and technical, are required. While ACC recognizes the importance of financial mechanisms linked to particular international legal obligations, ACC also reiterates the need for appropriate financial arrangements to help developing countries to undertake investments to address poverty-related environmental degradation and to enable them to bear the additional burdens involved in bringing about a transition to an environmentally sustainable development path. It is important that all organizations of the United Nations system participate actively in the development of such new financial mechanisms.

27. ACC was informed of the development of a number of international legal instruments on environment-related issues. Conventions being negotiated on climate change and biological diversity are expected to be ready for adoption in conjunction with the 1992 Conference. Problems caused by land-based sources of marine pollution are being addressed through the development of strategy options, a useful step towards the development of comprehensive control measures. New legal instruments are also being considered in the areas of forests and the working environment. A convention on oil pollution preparedness and response was adopted within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at the end of 1990.

28. ACC was also informed about several major environment-related conferences that were held during 1991. These included the Conference on Ecologically Sustainable Industrial Development, organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment.

29. ACC was kept informed of developments related to the environmental impact of the conflict between Kuwait and Iraq. ACC welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of a Personal Representative to help coordinate the environmental impact on Kuwait and countries in the region of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. Three inter-agency consultations on the matter were convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at Geneva in order to intensify cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system to enable it to respond effectively to requests from member States. Many agencies and programmes, in particular IMO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNIDO, UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United

Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), have participated in the inter-agency effort, each leading activities and conducting missions within their areas of competence. ACC has expressed its appreciation to the Governments that have made contributions to the efforts of the United Nations system, and has also expressed its satisfaction with the cooperation among agencies and organizations in addressing the emergency situation.

30. ACC has been kept abreast of developments regarding climate change, especially the plans for implementation of recommendations adopted at the Second World Climate Conference in November 1990, as well as the work of the International Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In taking note of the recommendations, ACC urges relevant agencies and international organizations, as appropriate, to implement the respective recommendations as effectively as possible.

31. Regarding the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, ACC noted with satisfaction the collaboration between the involved United Nations agencies, especially within the context of the Inter-agency Working Group on Desertification. At the same time, ACC regretted that the world-wide implementation of recommendations of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification was inadequate, particularly owing to the lack of commitment on the part of Governments and the consequent lack of resources, while desertification/land degradation in the world's drylands continues to progress unabated.

32. ACC reviewed the state of preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and, in that connection, heard progress reports of the Secretary-General of the Conference at both of its sessions in 1991. The outcome of the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, held at Geneva from 12 August to 4 September 1991, was extensively discussed. It was noted that the Preparatory Committee had accomplished a substantial amount of work and had begun the in-depth process of defining and shaping concrete actions, which the Committee would be recommending to the Conference. Many of the Committee's decisions represent significant steps forward in building areas of agreement on some issues and in better defining some of the basic elements contained in General Assembly resolution 44/228. ACC was also informed of the preparations for the International Conference on Water and the Environment.

33. A great deal of work had also been devoted to the questions of financing, technology transfer and institutions, which were all viewed as fundamentally important cross-sectoral issues relevant to all aspects of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The stakes involved in solving those issues were very high and the success of the Conference would hinge largely upon finding a common ground for their solution.

34. While positions on the key questions of new and additional resources remained far apart, some approaches were evolving that could provide possible

focus for the coming round of negotiations. There was a high degree of agreement on the principle that additional financial resources would be needed to support developing countries' efforts towards sustainable development. The problem was how best to give effect to that principle.

35. Preparations for the Conference had continued to draw upon the expertise and experience of the entire United Nations system through the working parties established on the major issues before the Conference. The Conference secretariat was especially grateful for that collaboration.

36. In the ACC deliberations, it was pointed out that it would be important that issues relating to additional resources and the transfer of technology also be dealt with effectively in the context of the intergovernmental negotiating processes relating to the conventions on climate and biodiversity.

F. Operational activities for development

37. ACC, with the assistance of its Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) (CCSQ (OPS)), focused its efforts on improving the overall coherence, cost-effectiveness and impact of operational activities for development, with particular emphasis on field-level coordination. The implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211 and related decisions of other governing bodies remained a priority.

38. The main issues addressed during the period and the action taken thereon are set out below.

1. Goals and strategies for the 1990s

39. The General Assembly, in paragraph 33 of its resolution 41/171, called for the provision of a general framework of broad objectives for the operational activities of the United Nations system. In order to assist Governments to give effect to the goals and strategies of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, as part of their own national plans and priorities, CCSQ (OPS), on behalf of ACC, elaborated and issued an information and initial guidance note on the operational implications of the Strategy. It was issued by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to resident coordinators. Organizations sent it to their respective headquarters and field office staff. The note is advisory in nature and provides a basis for action in the unique circumstances of each country. While recognizing that the primary responsibility for giving operational effect to the goals and priorities lies with Governments, it identifies specific measures that resident coordinators and their country-level partners of the system can take in discharging the system's important supporting role. The note is supplemented by inputs prepared by individual organizations on their priority goals and strategies for the 1990s, and on the priority activities that individual organizations are ready to support. Initial indications are that

this initiative is being well received by Governments and by the United Nations country teams. ACC is monitoring the implementation of the information and guidance note, which complements other initiatives for enhancing the overall coherence of United Nations system activities through the issuance of draft guidelines to country teams for enhancing programming processes, and guidelines on enhancing the role of the resident coordinator system.

2. Enhancing programming processes

40. In pursuance of both paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 42/196 and paragraph 17 of resolution 44/211, considerable time and attention was devoted to this issue. CCSQ (OPS) agreed on draft guidelines for enhancing the coordination of the programming processes, including measures better to ensure an integrated United Nations response to the requirements of recipient countries. Since consensus on some aspects of the question of an integrated response was not reached by the General Assembly, it was decided to issue the guidelines as a draft in order to assess their relevance and feasibility in each country situation. They have thus been issued to resident coordinators by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation. The draft guidelines emphasize that national plans and priorities constitute the essential framework within which external assistance should be articulated. While the programming process must be a government-led effort, the system should be ready to support Governments on request. They, furthermore, identify a series of measures, including the elaboration of a note on common themes and linkages, which reflect the proposed contribution of the system.

3. Enhancing the role and effectiveness of the resident coordinator system

41. As previously reported, the consolidated text of the recommendations adopted by ACC in pursuance of paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 42/196 and of paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 44/211, were transmitted by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to resident coordinators in 1990. They were also transmitted by, or on behalf of, executive heads to their respective headquarters and field staff. CCSQ (OPS) continued to monitor their implementation and has taken steps to ensure that they receive due attention. The guidelines have, for example, been presented and discussed at each of the management of field coordination workshops for country teams (referred to below). In addition, it was agreed to include the texts of common elements in the letters of designation of all resident coordinators and of agency representatives.

42. CCSQ (OPS) undertook an interim assessment of the management of field coordination workshops for country teams, which it had launched in early 1991. It concurred with the positive assessment of the programme by the participants and their respective headquarters. It agreed to extend the pilot

workshops for a further period of six months. It is also collaborating with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation in a feasibility study on a comprehensive training strategy that covers the training requirements at the field level of national and international staff responsible for operational activities.

4. Reports of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly

43. In preparing his annual report for 1991 and his triennial comprehensive policy review report for 1992, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation once again utilized the CCSQ (OPS) mechanism for consulting organizations of the system. Committee members offered their views on the content and thrust of the reports, while fully recognizing that the recommendations were the Director-General's sole responsibility.

5. Programme of action for the least developed countries

44. In pursuance of its initiative in providing guidance to the headquarters and field structures of member organizations both on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (see above), and on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, CCSQ (OPS) held preliminary discussions on the outline of a paper it will consider at its first regular session of 1992. It is expected that specific guidelines for giving operational effect to the Programme of Action will be included.

6. Regional dimensions of development

45. CCSQ (OPS) endorsed recommendations, contained in a report on regional dimensions of development, to prepare a unified comprehensive compendium of all regional technical cooperation activities under way, as well as a two-year projection of planned activities; to hold several follow-up meetings on the compendium for information exchanges and clarification of data and to arrange complementary ongoing work; and to undertake a regional technical cooperation survey every five years to provide policy-level directions for the use of these resources.

7. Field structures of the United Nations system

46. As another contribution to the preparation of the annual report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, CCSQ (OPS) reviewed a report concerning the updating of data relating to the field structures of organizations of the system. It noted that the specific

and varying mandates of organizations, as well as the wide range of different tasks carried out at the field level, required that care be taken in relating field representation to the volume of operational activities. Budgetary considerations influenced the extent to which further measures to strengthen field structures could be implemented. Reference was made to the different criteria that prompted the opening and closing of offices and the choice of their locations, and to the fact that policy decisions in that regard are taken by the governing bodies of the various organizations.

8. National execution

47. In reiterating the commitment of all organizations to the promotion of this modality, it was agreed that, pending the finalization of guidelines, initial guidance would be sent to the field as a matter of urgency. The guidelines were subsequently finalized on the basis of UNDP inter-agency consultations, taking account also of earlier agreement by CCSQ (OPS) on a common position on the enhancement of the utilization of national capacities and on the national execution modality.

9. Successor arrangements for support costs

48. CCSQ (OPS) provided support to UNDP inter-agency consultations for the elaboration of detailed arrangements in pursuance of the relevant decisions of the Governing Council of UNDP. Progress was made in this regard and guidelines for the implementation of the new arrangements were jointly finalized.

10. Procurement from developing and under-utilized major donor countries

49. Guidelines were recommended for relevant headquarters and field staff which include a number of measures aimed at promoting procurement from developing and underutilized donor countries. It was concluded that, while the setting of annual procurement targets for the two groups of countries might have some merit, it would be difficult to set targets by agency, region or country. However, better information on the availability of quality products that could compete on the open market could contribute significantly to enhancing procurement from those countries.

11. Simplification and harmonization

50. CCSQ (OPS) reviewed the subject on the basis of a report prepared by the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation in the light of developments since the matter was last considered in 1988. It was concluded that considerable progress had been made by the system over recent years and that further efforts should be guided by the following principles: (a) the procedures for the management of operational

activities of the system should be compatible with those used by recipient Governments in view of the growing involvement of Governments and national staff in all aspects of project management; (b) that harmonization is a general concept which should be distinguished from the specific task of simplification and synchronization; (c) that a balance should be struck between the requirements of harmonization and the preservation of flexibility; (d) that further efforts in this area should involve collaboration with other multilateral and bilateral donors; (e) and that further efforts should be based on the criteria of whether rules and procedures facilitate or inhibit the building of the capacities of the developing country to design and manage projects and programmes. It was agreed that particular attention should be given to ensuring flexibility at the country level and to related areas of delegation of authority and of accountability. Further work on harmonizing project formats/documents will be carried out.

II. FINANCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL ISSUES

A. Personnel and general administrative issues

51. In 1991, ACC reviewed personnel questions at both of its regular sessions and statements were made to ICSC and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. ACC focused its attention on (a) the need to ensure competitive levels of remuneration of staff in the Professional and higher categories and (b) the continuing instability of United Nations common system employment conditions and the need for predictability in the management of those conditions of service.

52. Management of the margin between United Nations salaries and those of the comparator was again high on the list of concerns. ACC sought to make clear to the General Assembly that the stop-go salary system of the late 1980s and early 1990s was disruptive, technically unsound and damaging to the morale of staff. Freezes of post adjustment were unacceptable and indefensible at a time when the comparator civil service had recognized that the salaries of its civil servants were not competitive.

53. The General Assembly, in section IV of resolution 46/191 on the United Nations common system, acknowledged the view of ACC and, to some extent, took action to avoid at least a prolonged freeze until the impact of the anticipated improvements in United States federal civil service pay levels could be assessed in 1994.

54. A number of other concerns registered in the ACC statements were positively responded to by the General Assembly in resolution 46/191 and in resolution 46/192 on the United Nations pension system, including the following: (a) an increase of 6 per cent in the base/floor salary; (b) support for consideration by ICSC of the differences in the margin between United Nations and United States remuneration at different grade levels; and (c) modification of the pension adjustment system, with effect from 1 April 1992.

55. Action on the remuneration levels of Assistant Secretaries-General and Under-Secretaries-General, which was also supported by ACC, was deferred by the General Assembly until 1992.

56. The subsidiary body assisting ACC in personnel issues, the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions) (CCAQ (PER)), for its part, reported on a number of areas which, to some extent, marked the beginnings of a new era in looking at United Nations conditions of employment in a longer-term perspective than that of the day-to-day management of the margin. In a discussion of the philosophy underlying the common system, CCAQ (PER) confirmed the need to develop a more dynamic and flexible common system to keep up with changing times. Such a system should foster, not inhibit, change. The development of practical new approaches in keeping with this conceptual approach will form a large part of the work of CCAQ in coming years.

57. A significant portion of time in 1991 was spent in preparing the ACC report on the functioning of ICSC, which was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session (A/46/275). The report served as a basis for comments by ICSC on the matter and for the General Assembly's consideration of the issue. The General Assembly did not discuss at any length the more technical recommendations but, in resolution 46/191, took a more general view both of its own central role in the elaboration of conditions of service for the United Nations common system and of the role of ICSC in the regulation and coordination of those conditions of service. It also affirmed, as ACC had done, the validity of the ICSC statute.

58. In the course of 1991, ACC also considered a number of other issues, including:

(a) The comprehensive review of the conditions of service of Under-Secretaries-General and Assistant Secretaries-General;

(b) The comprehensive review of the pensionable remuneration of the General Service and related categories;

(c) The question of pension arrangements for officials in certain ungraded posts;

(d) The question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment;

(e) The methodology for determining the level of the education grant;

(f) The impact of HIV/AIDS on United Nations system personnel and operational policy;

(g) Security-related issues affecting United Nations system personnel.

B. Financial issues

1. Financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system

59. The financial situation of organizations of the system continued to give rise to concern by ACC in 1991, and to have serious implications for the planning and implementation of programme activities. Under arrangements instituted by ACC in 1987, financial managers of the system pursued their regular reviews and exchanges of information on this subject at each of the sessions of the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ (FB)). As background information for these reviews, system-wide statistics on the payment performance of individual contributors were assembled, as well as data on the effects of the incentive and penalty schemes introduced in some organizations to speed up the collection of assessed contributions.

60. During the review held in September 1991, it was noted that failure to receive payments of assessed contributions had made or was likely to make it necessary for several organizations to have recourse to internal and/or external borrowing at an earlier date than in any previous year. In addition, payments were being received at increasingly late dates from an increasing number of large contributors.

2. Special Drawing Rights as a unit of account

61. To assist the Administrator of UNDP in responding to a request of the Governing Council in its decision 90/34, CCAQ (FB) studied, on behalf of ACC, the feasibility and practicability of introducing Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) as a unit of account on a system-wide basis. Subsequently, a statement on this subject was drawn up and placed before the Governing Council at its thirty-eighth session, in June 1991.

62. In the statement it was recalled that, in an earlier decision (89/45), the Governing Council had envisaged the use of SDRs, or of an ad hoc basket of currencies, for calculating the financial resources of UNDP and the resulting indicative planning figures in order to limit the effects of currency fluctuations. After examining the extent to which the use of SDRs would have this effect, it was concluded that such a system would not provide better protection against currency instability than the arrangements already adopted by the organizations for that purpose and, in a number of cases, would significantly diminish the degree of protection already achieved. For this reason, and because of the high costs and the administrative complications that would also be involved, it was recommended that the question of SDRs as a unit of account should not be pursued.

3. Accounting standards

63. CCAQ (FB) gave careful attention to a study drawn up by the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency on the need for the development of accounting standards in the United Nations system. The study had been prepared in response to a request by the General Assembly, in resolution 45/235, for submission to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through ACC and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

64. It was recalled that ACC had been concerned for some time with accounting standards. Its past work in that area had led, among other things, to the adoption of system-wide guidelines for the presentation of financial reports and statements and the development of a standard for the disclosure of accounting policies. There was agreement, however, that a need now existed for pursuing the matter on a cooperative basis, with the involvement of the Panel of External Auditors and making use as appropriate of outside expertise.

65. Such an effort, which would need to be carried out in several stages, would have as its final objective the completion of a collection of accounting standards that took into consideration the particular situation of the organizations of the system. The standards should be based on those of the International Accounting Standards Committee, and on those promulgated by other recognized authorities in the field, to the extent that such texts were relevant to the operations of the organizations (as distinguished from operations of a commercial nature, which many such standards had been designed to address). The inter-organization standards should also reflect prevailing practices in the system where these were found to be preferable to other alternatives. A substantial investment of time would be called for to bring this work to a satisfactory conclusion, and much of it would need to be carried out in 1992.

4. Other issues

66. Among the many other financial and budgetary subjects on which CCAQ (FB) reported to ACC in 1991, the following may be mentioned:

(a) Proposed budgets for jointly financed activities (ICSC, Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), jointly financed bodies under the auspices of ACC). Proposed 1992-1993 programme budgets for these activities were reviewed on behalf of ACC in advance of their consideration by central intergovernmental bodies. It was agreed that the principle of zero real growth, insisted upon by Governments in respect of the budgets proposed by the organizations themselves, should be strictly applied in all cases;

(b) Internal controls. CCAQ (FB) continued its regular reviews and exchanges of information on this subject, giving particular attention to the prevention and detection of fraud;

(c) Statistical data on the budgetary and financial situation of organizations of the United Nations system. In agreement with ACABQ, CCAQ (FB) developed, on behalf of ACC, a new report to take the place of the statistical data formerly included in the reports of ACABQ on administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In the absence of firm information on the new scale of contributions of the United Nations, the report could not be issued during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, but it was expected to be available in the early part of 1992.

III. OTHER MATTERS

67. During the year under review, ACC continued to monitor developments in a number of areas in which action by the United Nations system was required.

A. Programme matters

68. Among the questions kept under review by ACC were activities of the organizations of the system related to programme matters.

69. In 1990, ACC had decided to reconvene its Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) (CCSQ (PROG)) to address three tasks: (a) the question of providing in the ACC annual overview report information on the programmes and resources of the organizations of the system; (b) preliminary discussion on ways in which to approach the harmonization of programme budget and medium-term plan cycles in the United Nations system; and (c) the ACC contribution to the thematic analyses to be prepared for future sessions of the Economic and Social Council. CCSQ (PROG) took the following actions regarding the tasks assigned to it.

1. Information on programmes and resources of the organizations of the United Nations system

70. In response to various requests from intergovernmental bodies, and at the request of ACC, CCSQ (PROG), in consultation with CCAQ (FB), had, beginning in 1990, worked on the development of a new ACC report on programmes and resources of organizations of the system.

71. The report (E/1991/42/Add.1) was reviewed and approved by CCSQ (PROG) and CCAQ (FB) and was subsequently submitted to CPC at its thirty-first session, to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991 and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. The report was found to be most useful by Member States.

72. In 1991, CCSQ (PROG) also had a preliminary exchange of views on ways in which the next report on programmes and resources, to be prepared in 1993, could be improved and on arrangements to be made for the collection of the financial and programme data needed to complete that report.

2. Revision of the programme classification of ACC

73. In 1990, it had been agreed to revise and update the ACC programme classification. CCSQ (PROG) undertook responsibility for the revision, in consultation with CCAQ (FB) and other parts of the ACC subsidiary machinery, as relevant.

74. A joint working group of CCSQ (PROG) and CCAQ (FB) met in March 1991 and agreed upon the principles and guidelines to be followed in preparing a revised classification. The United Nations assumed responsibility for the preparation and management of the review and, in that context, arranged for a joint technical working group on the ACC programme classification, which met in July 1991.

75. The report of the working group, containing an extensive revision of the programme classification, was considered by CCSQ (PROG) at its meeting held in September 1991. CCSQ (PROG) agreed upon the classification, which was then forwarded to the joint meeting of CCSQ (PROG) and CCAQ (FB) in September. At that meeting, it was recommended that ACC adopt the revised classification, which it did at its second regular session of 1991 (ACC decision 1991/22). The revised classification will serve as a framework for the ACC report on programmes and resources, to be submitted to CPC, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1993.

3. Consideration of the development of a system-wide database on programmes and resources

76. CCSQ (PROG) had previously recognized that a central database or a means of central access to the databases of the organizations of the system on resources and programmes would be an effective way of responding to the concerns of Member States concerning the availability of system-wide information. At the twenty-fifth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC, the desirability of such a database was recognized, and ACC was requested to examine the matter further. CCSQ (PROG) discussed the question on behalf of ACC at both of its sessions of 1991. The Committee fully recognized the potential advantages of such a database and noted that these would be further explored on the basis of the development of new management information systems in a number of organizations. It was agreed to keep the question under review.

4. Thematic analyses for sessions of the Economic and Social Council

77. CCSQ (PROG) again considered its role, on behalf of the United Nations system, in the preparation of thematic analyses for the Economic and Social Council, as called for by the Council in resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114.

78. Regarding thematic analyses, as well as the themes for discussion at the future coordination and high-level segments of the Economic and Social Council and other inter-agency reports and plans, the previous conclusion of CCSQ (PROG), that inter-agency arrangements for the review of those types of reports should be determined in the light of the specific themes selected, was recalled. CCSQ (PROG) could, however, perform a supervisory or overview function to ensure consistency in the approach of the various analyses and in the programme and resource information that they contained. It was furthermore stressed that, particularly regarding themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the Council, adequate lead time should be given so that documentation could be properly prepared and submitted in a timely fashion.

B. Implementation of conclusions and recommendations of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC

79. The General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 45/254 B, requested that the annual overview report of ACC include a section on the measures taken or envisaged to implement the conclusions and recommendations of CPC and of the Joint Meetings of the two Committees.

80. At the first part of its thirty-first session, CPC adopted a number of conclusions and recommendations regarding the annual overview report of ACC. The annual overview report of ACC was considered to be a definite improvement over previous efforts. The format of the report was welcomed, as was the emphasis given to substantive issues. In its report, CPC also pointed to further improvements that could be made in the ACC annual overview report. These suggestions will be fully taken into account in the preparation of future ACC overview reports.

81. CPC welcomed the new ACC report on programmes and resources of the United Nation system, contained in an addendum to the annual overview report. A number of ways in which the new report could be improved in the future were also noted. Those recommendations have, in a preliminary manner, already been examined and discussed by CCSQ (PROG) in the context of its consideration of the next report on programmes and resources, which will be submitted to CPC and the Economic and Social Council in 1993. CCSQ (PROG), on behalf of ACC, will make a concerted effort to improve the methodology utilized in the report on programmes and resources in order to ensure that the information is comprehensive and transparent and of use to Member States. ACC has now completed the process of revising its programme classification, which is one element of an improved methodology.

82. The report of the Chairmen of the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings, held in October 1991 (E/1991/143), contains conclusions and recommendations relating to the topic considered by the Joint Meetings, the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the organizations of the United Nations system. The conclusions and recommendations are, for the most part, cast in somewhat

general terms. ACC is in full agreement with them and is fully committed to ensuring that the organizations, both individually and collectively, contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the Strategy in an effective and coherent manner. ACC fully recognizes that coherence of action undertaken by organizations is particularly important at the national level. The work of one of its consultative committees, CCSQ (OPS), described in paragraphs 37 to 50 above, is motivated by the determination of the organizations of the system to improve the overall coherence, cost-effectiveness and impact of its operational activities, with particular emphasis on field-level coordination arrangements.

C. Coordination in mineral and energy sectors

83. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/90, requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, to include in the annual overview report of ACC, to be submitted to the Council at its regular session of 1992, a section on the most effective ways and means of enhancing coordination in the mineral and energy sectors. The Committee on Natural Resources had previously noted the absence of formal coordination mechanisms in those sectors similar to those existing in the areas of water and new and renewable sources of energy.

84. In response to a request by the Secretary-General, members of ACC have provided their views on the subject. The views of the organizations are somewhat diverse. New institutions and mechanisms were suggested by some organizations, while others were of the view that existing arrangements were adequate.

85. The responses of the various organs and organizations indicate a felt need for close coordination and cooperation among various parts of the system. In the past, and to that end, ad hoc inter-agency consultations for specific purposes have been held as the need arose. This modality should be retained in response to specific needs and requirements.

86. In the light of the ongoing discussions in the General Assembly on the restructuring of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, and particularly of the subsidiary machinery of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the question of the establishment of new formal coordination mechanisms in the mineral and energy sectors would be taken up following action on restructuring by the General Assembly.

D. Other items considered by ACC

87. Among the other areas kept under review by ACC, the following received particular attention.

1. Prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)

88. ACC has kept the situation with regard to the prevention and control of AIDS under review since 1987. In 1991, ACC was informed by WHO that, while the rate of new HIV infections appeared to be slowing down among certain populations in some industrialized countries, it was increasing markedly in developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, but also in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. On the basis of these trends, 10 to 20 million new infections could be expected in adults during the 1990s, mostly in the developing world. Thus, for the year 2000, WHO projects a cumulative total of 25 to 30 million adult HIV infections, of which more than 90 per cent will be in developing countries. During the same decade, WHO projects that 5 to 10 million or more children will have been born with HIV. Consequently, for the year 2000, the current projection of WHO is that there will be a cumulative total of 30 to 40 million infections in men, women and children. Unfortunately, this projection, large as it is, may turn out to be conservative if the dynamic spread of HIV infection remains unchecked, particularly in South-East Asia.

89. The economic and social impact of the disease, which kills people in their most productive years, will be immense. The selective impact on young and middle-aged adults, who include the socially, economically and politically élite, could lead to economic, social and even political destabilization.

90. Collaboration within the United Nations system was becoming even more crucial in order to ensure a multisectoral response to the social and economic consequences of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In addition to technical collaboration for specific activities and the regular meetings of the Inter-agency Advisory Group on AIDS, the WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat AIDS has, since its establishment in 1988, ensured multisectoral collaboration between those two organizations. WHO has recently had a series of discussions, both in a group and individually, with the United Nations bodies principally involved in AIDS prevention and control activities at the country level - the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP, UNESCO, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank.

2. International drug abuse control

91. International drug abuse control has been a priority for ACC in recent years. The implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on International Drug Control, as well as the Global Programme of Action, has been a particular concern. In 1991, the newly established United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was invited to participate fully in the work of ACC (ACC decision 1991/15).

92. UNDCP provided a progress report to ACC at its second regular session of 1991. The report related the institutional and organizational arrangements being put into place and the role of inter-agency cooperation. It was noted that, considering the ever-increasing number of drug abuse control initiatives undertaken globally, it had become apparent that the expected increase in efficiency, and ultimately the success of those initiatives, could be achieved only through cooperation and coordination, within the United Nations system as well as between the system and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in that field.

3. Accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

93. In response to General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150, ACC has continued to develop coordinated programmes to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. In March 1991, the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna was appointed United Nations Coordinator for international cooperation to the regions affected by the Chernobyl accident.

94. At its first regular session of 1991, ACC was apprised by the United Nations Coordinator of the background to the accident and its aftermath, the activities of the United Nations organizations in relation to the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and activities planned for the future. Among these was the IAEA-led International Chernobyl Project, an interdisciplinary, technical assessment of the radiological consequences and evaluation of protective measures, carried out in cooperation with local authorities in the affected areas. At the same meeting, ACC established an Ad Hoc Inter-agency Task Force to Address the Consequences of the Nuclear Accident at Chernobyl (ACC decision 1991/6).

95. The Task Force is responsible for providing guidance and support, from both the technical and the policy standpoint, on all aspects of the international assistance effort, and comprises 15 organizations and agencies of the United Nations system most directly concerned.

96. As a result of the continuing discussions held between the United Nations Coordinator and the authorities of the countries concerned, both at Vienna and in New York, and subsequently with officials in the capitals of those countries, it was agreed that a joint plan for international cooperation to alleviate the effects of the accident at the nuclear power plant should be prepared by the authorities concerned. It was further agreed that a meeting of interested donor countries should be organized at which the plan would be presented for financing.

97. The document outlining the requirements for socio-economic rehabilitation of the areas affected by the accident was prepared for the Chernobyl Pledging Conference and widely distributed. All States Members of the United Nations were invited to take part in the Conference, which was held in New York on 20 September 1991. In that connection, a United Nations Trust Fund for Chernobyl was established, through which, in addition to bilateral mechanisms,

contributions could be channelled to the relevant organizations or technical agencies of the United Nations system.

98. Since the time of the Conference, which yielded contributions amounting to some $7.5 million in convertible currency, $3.4 million in non-convertible currency and a significant amount of in-kind assistance, efforts have focused primarily on the collection of funds pledged and the identification of priority projects in the joint plan.

99. Foreseen for the future, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his report on international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (A/46/215/Rev.1-E/1991/76/Rev.1), are a number of activities, such as management of the United Nations Trust Fund for Chernobyl, including disbursement of funds according to criteria to be established, and monitoring their use, and coordination of the activities of the United Nations system of agencies and organizations through the Inter-agency Task Force.

4. Assistance to Namibia

100. ACC reviewed assistance to Namibia by the organizations of the United Nations system in 1990. In decision 1990/18, ACC decided to keep under review the provision of assistance to Namibia.

101. At its second regular session of 1991, ACC had before it a progress report on assistance to Namibia by the United Nations system, prepared by UNDP. The report contained detailed information on the activities of organizations in Namibia prior to and following the country's independence on 21 March 1990. The United Nations system assisted Namibia with, inter alia, the following: formulation of an overall development strategy; support for child survival and development; technical assistance and economic management; repatriation of Namibian refugees and exiles; the country's first population census; training and fellowships; agricultural projects and food distribution; productive employment and labour strategies; development of the country's health, industrial, civil aviation, and housing sectors; teacher upgrading; organization of a drug control mechanism; and drafting of a national investment code. The report also examined the coordination of technical assistance programmes in Namibia, through a variety of processes, including the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)). ACC planned to keep assistance to Namibia under review in 1992.

5. South Africa

102. The struggle against apartheid has been a major and continuing concern of the United Nations system for a large number of years. In 1991, ACC reviewed General Assembly resolutions 45/176 A-H, as they related to the coordination of activities by the organizations of the United Nations system. In resolution 45/176 A, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the coordination of activities of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. In resolution 45/176 E, the Assembly requested all United Nations bodies, organs and agencies to cooperate with the Special Committee against Apartheid and the United Nations Centre against Apartheid in their activities in order to ensure consistency, improve coordination and efficient use of available resources and avoid duplication of efforts in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Assembly, in resolution 45/176 A, further urged the international community and the Secretary-General, through the relevant United Nations agencies, to provide all possible assistance to facilitate, inter alia, the reintegration of released political prisoners and returning South African refugees and exiles. Subsequently, in September 1991, a memorandum of understanding on the repatriation of refugees was signed between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Government of South Africa and, in October 1991, a UNHCR office was opened in South Africa.

103. ACC considered a coordinated approach by the United Nations system to questions relating to South Africa at its first regular session of 1991, and adopted guidelines in that regard (ACC decision 1991/7).

104. In response to the call for coordination, both by the General Assembly and ACC, a meeting was organized on 1 and 2 October 1991 by the United Nations Centre against Apartheid. All major United Nations organizations, agencies and offices exchanged information on actual or planned activities concerning South Africa and established a forum for continued collaboration on the matter. Also discussed at the meeting were the modalities for the preparation of a preliminary assessment of the possible implications of political evolution in South Africa and of the economic and social needs of the low-income population in South Africa and on the economies of neighbouring countries (as requested by ACC in decision 1991/7; to be finalized in the course of 1992). In 1992, the organizations will examine how the United Nations system as a whole can help in the efforts to address the glaring socio-economic inequalities in South Africa during the interim period and, most importantly, once South Africa has become a united and non-racial democracy.

6. Implementation of the commitments of the World Summit for Children

105. At its second regular session of 1991, ACC was apprised, through a progress report prepared by UNICEF, of current activities being undertaken for the implementation of the World Summit for Children commitments. The report provided background on developments following the World Summit for Children and the adoption of General Assembly resolution 45/217. The collaboration of UNICEF with other United Nations organizations to develop joint approaches to monitor the progress towards achievement of the World Summit goals was highlighted.

7. Industrial development

106. By resolution 45/196, the General Assembly recommended that ACC examine ways and means of fostering United Nations system activities with regard to industrial development cooperation and diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in cooperation with other organs, organizations and bodies of the system, was requested to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, on strengthening industrial development cooperation. At its first regular session of 1991, ACC had before it a note prepared by UNIDO, which contained a draft report on industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries.

Annex I

DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION IN 1991

1991/1 Humanitarian Programme for Iraq, Kuwait and Iraq/Turkey and Iraq/Iran

1991/2 Conditions on the continent of Africa

1991/3 Evolution of the margin

1991/4 Pension adjustment system

1991/5 Report on the functioning of the International Civil Service Commission

1991/6 Ad Hoc Inter-agency Task Force to Address the Consequences of the Nuclear Accident at Chernobyl

1991/7 Coordinated approach by the United Nations system to questions relating to South Africa

1991/8 Successor arrangements for support costs

1991/9 Early warning regarding new flows of refugees and displaced persons

1991/10 Principles and Strategies regarding the Impact of HIV/AIDS on United Nations Personnel and Operational Policy

1991/11 Nutrition and population

1991/12 Control of iron deficiencies

1991/13 Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

1991/14 Participation of the United Nations system in the International Specialized Exhibition (Genoa, 1992)

1991/15 Participation of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme

1991/16 Appointments to posts in the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

1991/17 International cooperation in the field of the environment

1991/18 Statement on personnel issues

1991/19 Conditions of employment of staff in the Professional and higher categories

1991/20 Pension arrangements for officials in certain ungraded posts

1991/21 Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

1991/22 Revised programme classification of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

1991/23 United Nations Field Security Handbook

1991/24 Participation of the United Nations system in the Taejon International Exposition (Republic of Korea, 1993)

1991/25 Information system security guidelines

1991/26 First regular session of 1992 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

Annex II

REPORTS, STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES IN 1991

Document symbol	Title or description
A/46/275	Report by the Administrative Committee on Coordination on a review of the functioning of the United Nations International Civil Service Commission
A/C.5/46/31	Statement adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination on personnel questions
E/1991/16 and Corr.1	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development
E/1991/42	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1990
E/1991/42/Add.1	Programmes and resources of the United Nations system
E/1991/42/Add.2	Summary of activities in 1990 of the subsidiary bodies of ACC and of ad hoc bodies convened under its auspices
E/1991/44	Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the Register of Development Activities of the United Nations System
E/1991/143	Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees

Annex III

MEETINGS CONVENED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION IN 1991

Dates	Venue	Title of meeting
6-8 February	New York	Task Force on Science and Technology for Development (twelfth session)
11-13 February	New York	Organizational Committee of ACC
21-22 February	Vienna	Inter-agency meeting on ageing (fourth meeting)
25 February-1 March	New York (UNFPA headquarters)	Subcommittee on Nutrition (eighteenth session)
4-22 March	Paris (UNESCO headquarters)	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions)
11-12 March	Vienna	Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women (fifteenth meeting)
11-15 March	Vienna	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
13-14 March	Vienna	Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family (first meeting)
13-15 March	Vienna	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters)
18-19 March	Vienna	Informal joint working group of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
19-22 March	Geneva	Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives (twentieth session)

Dates	Venue	Title of meeting
25-26 March	Geneva	Inter-agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (tenth session)
25-28 March	Geneva	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities)
3-5 April	Paris	Organizational Committee of ACC
17-19 April	Paris (UNESCO headquarters)	Administrative Committee on Coordination, first regular session of 1991
10 May	Vienna	Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control
22-24 May	Nairobi (Habitat headquarters)	Task Force on Rural Development (nineteenth meeting)
30-31 May	Vienna	Informal inter-agency working group at the technical level on youth (eighth meeting)
10-13 June	Geneva	Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Security Matters
10-14 June	Vienna	Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (twenty-fifth session)
24-26 June	New York	Joint United Nations Information Committee (seventeenth session)
1-2 July	Geneva	Inter-agency Consultation on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
29 July-16 August	New York	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Personnel and General Administrative Questions)
9-13 September	New York	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)

Dates	Venue	Title of meeting
11-12 September	New York	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters)
11-13 September	London (IMO headquarters)	Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control
12 September	New York	Joint Meeting of the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Programme Matters) and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
16-20 September	New York	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities)
17-20 September	Geneva	Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems
18-20 September	Geneva (UNDRO headquarters)	Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities
25-27 September	Rome (FAO headquarters)	Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources (twelfth session)
7-9 October	New York	Organizational Committee of ACC
24-25 October	New York	Administrative Committee on Coordination, second regular session of 1991
3-6 December	Vienna	Inter-agency Meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (ninth meeting)

Annex IV

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION IN 1991

ACC/1991/1 and Corr.1	Programme of work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991
ACC/1991/2	Summary of conclusions, Organizational Committee (New York, 11-13 February)
ACC/1991/2/Add.1	Summary of conclusions, Organizational Committee (Paris, UNESCO headquarters, 3-5 and 19 April)
ACC/1991/2/Add.2	Summary of conclusions, Organizational Committee (New York, 7-9 October)
ACC/1991/3	Monitoring of the programme of work of ACC for 1991 (Paris, 3-5 April)
ACC/1991/3/Add.1	Monitoring of the programme of work of ACC for 1991 (New York, 7-9 October)
ACC/1991/4	Annotated provisional agenda of ACC for its first regular session of 1991 (Paris, 17-19 April)
ACC/1991/5 and Corr.1	Report of the seventy-fourth session of CCAQ (PER)
ACC/1991/6	Report of the seventy-fourth session of CCAQ (FB)
ACC/1991/7	Report of CCSQ (PROG)
ACC/1991/8	Report of the joint working group of CCSQ (PROG) and CCAQ (FB)
ACC/1991/9	Report of the Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives on its twentieth session
ACC/1991/10	Report of CCSQ (OPS) on its first regular session of 1991
ACC/1991/11	Report of the Joint United Nations Information Committee
ACC/1991/12	Report of the Inter-agency Consultation on the Follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
ACC/1991/13	Report of CCSQ (PROG)

ACC/1991/14	Report of the Joint Meeting of CCSQ (PROG) and CCAQ (FB)
ACC/1991/15	Report of ACCIS on its sixth session
ACC/1991/16	Report of CCSQ (OPS) on its second regular session of 1991
ACC/1991/17 and Corr.1	Report of CCAQ (PER) on its seventy-fifth session
ACC/1991/18	Report of CCAQ (FB) on its seventy-fifth session
ACC/1991/19	Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Security Matters
ACC/1991/20	Annotated provisional agenda of ACC for its second regular session of 1991
ACC/1991/PG/1	Report of the Task Force on Rural Development on its nineteenth meeting
ACC/1991/PG/2	Report of the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development on its twelfth session
ACC/1991/PG/3	Report of the Fourth Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Ageing
ACC/1991/PG/4	Report of the Subcommittee on Nutrition on its eighteenth session
ACC/1991/PG/5	Report of the Fifteenth Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women
ACC/1991/PG/6	Report of the First Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family
ACC/1991/PG/7	Report of the Inter-agency Group on New and Renewable Sources of Energy on its tenth session
ACC/1991/PG/8	Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control
ACC/1991/PG/9	Report of the Informal Inter-agency Working Group at the Technical Level on Youth on its eighth meeting
ACC/1991/PG/10	Report of the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its twenty-fifth session
ACC/1991/PG/11	Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control
ACC/1991/PG/12	Report of the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities

ACC/1991/PG/13	Report of the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources on its twelfth session
ACC/1991/PG/14	Report of the Inter-agency Meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons on its ninth meeting

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ACC/1991/DEC/1-16 and Corr. 1	Decisions adopted by ACC at its first regular session of 1991
ACC/1991/DEC/17-26	Decisions adopted by ACC at its second regular session of 1991

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COORDINATION QUESTIONS

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991

Addendum

Summary of activities in 1991 of the subsidiary bodies of ACC and of ad hoc bodies convened under its auspices

SUMMARY

The present report contains brief summaries of the activities carried out in 1991 by the subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). The activities of certain ad hoc bodies that meet under the auspices of ACC are also described.

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Abbreviations

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ACCIS	Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems
CCAQ (FB)	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions)
CCSQ (OPS)	Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities)
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GTZ	German Technical Assistance Corporation
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICPF/SARD	International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JUNIC	Joint United Nations Information Committee
NGLS	Non-Governmental Liaison Service
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WHO	World Health Organization

I. TASK FORCE ON LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

1. The twentieth session of the Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives was held at Geneva from 19 to 22 March 1991. In accordance with the mandate given to the Task Force by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1990/52, entitled "Role of the United Nations in the early identification, analysis and forecasting of world economic developments", the Task Force reviewed current problems and prospective developments in the economic and social fields and considered ways to improve existing mechanisms for disseminating socio-economic forecasts, projections and qualitative analyses in a comprehensive and readily accessible form.

2. The Task Force took note of the report of its Technical Working Group on its fifteenth session, held in July 1990. The Task Force noted that the long-term assessments of the world economy presented by various agencies at that session were still valid, even if their short-term outlooks for 1990 and 1991, influenced by the effects of the Persian Gulf conflict, proved to be too optimistic. The Task Force endorsed the usefulness of the Technical Working Group as a network for exchanging substantive views on methodology, databases, communication and other technical issues of modelling and forecasting, and requested the Working Group to review modelling and other analytical work on social and environmental aspects of development at its next session, which was held in July 1991. At that session, the Working Group also reviewed the compatibility between assessments of trends in agriculture and industry and the macroeconomy produced by different units of the United Nations system, and exchanged views on the methodologies, databases, communication facilities and other technical issues involved in the preparation and dissemination of forecasts, projections and qualitative analyses of trends in the world economy.

3. The Task Force noted that over the past few years entrepreneurship had attracted attention in almost every part of the United Nations system. A number of specialized agencies have programmes, sometimes in cooperation with other agencies, to encourage entrepreneurship in developing countries and countries in transition and in special contexts such as poverty alleviation, agriculture, environmental problems, refugee settlement and health services.

4. The Task Force made recommendations to ACC on the following matters: (a) resource flows for development; (b) promotion of exchange and dissemination of socio-economic forecasts, projections and analyses; and (c) review and assessment of the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

5. In response to a request by ACC, the Task Force also prepared a paper on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the United Nations system, including the review and appraisal of the implementation, for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and ACC, in October 1991.

6. The Task Force is a group of senior officials who meet for a few days once a year or, when circumstances warrant it, twice a year. It lacks decision-making responsibilities or even rules for such decisions, and it has seemed advisable for it not to set its ambitions unrealistically high. Secretariat support is not separately budgeted; the cost of servicing the meeting and preparing the report to ACC has traditionally been absorbed by the former Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat; the support therefore has been quite modest. Several agencies and regional commissions were not represented at the twelfth session, and representatives from several others were able to participate only part of the time.

7. The Task Force has taken a flexible view of its work programme. Unanticipated requests from ACC sometimes have to be met, and world conditions change. But the standing item of business has been an exchange of views among participants about the development trends and prospects and emerging policy issues that are of relevance to the work of the United Nations system in the area of economic and social development. The work is thus spontaneously oriented towards preoccupations that are shared system-wide. Although the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade did not become quite the blueprint for the United Nations system that some agencies thought it might be, the Task Force's discussions about the Strategy's implementation and monitoring improved mutual understanding inside the system. In response to the resource constraints of the United Nations system, the Technical Working Group has been confined to modelling and related statistical issues, but its mandate could be extended to such issues as the measurement of poverty or the rate of return to investments in social or human capital.

8. As a result of the vague constitutional mandate of the Task Force, the specific content of its agenda has been largely subject to the discretion of the chairman, based on occasional directives from ACC. This may not be ideal, but, given the nature of the body, it is probably the only feasible approach, as the Department of Economic and Social Development seems to be the main substantive body charged with the pursuit of system-wide approaches or assessments of policy issues.

9. To increase transparency, it might be useful to modify the name of the Task Force to "Task Force on Development Objectives, Issues and Prospects", to better reflect the wide range of its discussions.

II. TASK FORCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

10. The ACC Task Force on Science and Technology for Development, at its twelfth session, in February 1991, considered the following topics:

(a) Draft report of the Secretary-General to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on environmentally sound technologies, stressing ways and means of enhancing the participation of

developing countries in research and development of such technologies, and promoting access to them;

(b) Review of progress reports on endogenous capacity-building and inter-agency missions;

(c) New and emerging areas of science and technology, in particular review of a bibliography of the United Nations system's activities in biotechnology;

(d) New developments and trends in the programme and activities of the United Nations system in science and technology.

11. The Task Force also held an informal "window" meeting with representatives of some member States for a frank exchange of views on issues of mutual concern.

12. The Task Force held an informal meeting to share views on the expected output of the eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development with regard to the Task Force work. The Task Force, at its twelfth session, was apprised of the outcome of that meeting and the comments and views expressed.

13. In view of the close relationship between the mandate of the Task Force on Science and Technology for Development and the Task Force on Long-Term Development Objectives, it was considered that arrangements should be made to hold joint meetings between the two Task Forces to discuss system-wide topics relating to medium- and long-term technological management and planning, including early warning on technological developments having potential global significance.

14. The Task Force also endorsed the proposal of the former Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation that an international meeting be held on technology assessment and forecasting in strategic planning and management, with the participation of experts from all regions, the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

15. The approach and focus of the work of the Task Force was entirely in accordance with the decisions of CPC, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly with regard to coordination and cooperation, as well as operational activities within the United Nations system.

III. TASK FORCE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

16. The Task Force on Rural Development held its nineteenth meeting at the headquarters of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Nairobi, from 22 to 24 May 1991.

17. The meeting was characterized by a renewed sense of common purpose and desire to break fresh ground in the substantive discussions. This was fostered by the presentation of thought-provoking technical reports on recent meetings of its subsidiary panels and working groups and the report on the review of the experiences of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and United Nations agencies in implementing the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

18. Several agencies informed the Task Force of major initiatives being undertaken in the area of rural development and sought inter-agency collaboration in their implementation. FAO reported on the main conclusions and recommendations of the FAO/Netherlands Conference on Agriculture and the Environment, which was held in April 1991, and on the International Cooperative Programme Framework for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (ICPF/SARD). ICPF/SARD, which provides a framework for inter-agency collaboration in promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, was subsequently approved by the FAO Conference in November 1991. UNCHS (Habitat) informed the Task Force of the main elements of its Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. Attention was drawn to other major meetings in 1990, in particular the International Conference on Popular Participation in the Recovery and Development Process in Africa, sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); the World Summit for Children, sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); and the World Conference on Education for All, sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

19. The reports on the annual meetings of the Panels on Monitoring and Evaluation and on People's Participation raised considerable interest among member agencies. The report of the Panels' joint session on participatory monitoring and evaluation provided a useful analysis of the advantages and shortcomings of various technical approaches as well as insights into socio-political obstacles affecting their implementation.

20. The decision of the Working Group on Industrial Contribution to Rural Development to focus its efforts on the linkage between industrial development and rural poverty alleviation was strongly endorsed by Task Force members. A study will be prepared on the role of rural industries in poverty alleviation - issues and experiences, for the next meeting of the Working Group.

21. The discussions of the Task Force on the report on the review of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, which had been prepared by a team of external consultants, were constructive and valuable. FAO expressed its appreciation for the cooperation and assistance received from Task Force members throughout the review exercise. The comments of the Task Force on the report on the review were subsequently submitted to the FAO Conference in November 1991, together with the report on the review and the Director-General's comments thereon. The Conference recognized the continuing validity of the Programme of Action and the need for Governments, FAO and other United Nations agencies to intensify their efforts in implementing it.

22. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the convener of the Working Group on the Impact of Macroeconomic Policies on the Rural Poor, reported on recent studies undertaken in that area. It was agreed to review the topic in more detail at the next session, by which time additional resource material would be available.

23. The Task Force recognized the continuing importance of issues related to women in development and suggested closer cooperation in that area among the agencies.

IV. JOINT UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION COMMITTEE

24. The Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) held its seventeenth session in New York from 24 to 26 June 1991.

25. During 1991, JUNIC continued its efforts to coordinate information activities undertaken by the United Nations, the agencies and the programmes on specific topics, with a view to projecting a more coherent image of the system as a whole, while at the same time making optimal use of the limited resources available system-wide.

26. The issues discussed by JUNIC members during the past year included the following:

(a) Arrangements for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(b) Financing of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS);

(c) Participation in international exhibits;

(d) Agenda IV television series;

(e) Azimuths, a television magazine;

(f) United Nations identity package;

(g) The future of Development Forum;

(h) Observance of World Non-Smoking Day.

27. Among the special events that will take place in 1992 and beyond, JUNIC gave priority consideration to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It discussed a number of measures intended to generate and enhance media interest and coverage of the Conference. These include a sourcebook for media, journalists' tours, a joint system-wide exhibit to be held at the Conference, and others.

28. JUNIC also considered the question of financing NGLS. In response to a proposal to recommend to ACC that NGLS become a jointly financed activity of the United Nations system, funded through assessed contributions, JUNIC decided that members should consult with their respective programmes and agencies on all aspects of the administrative and financial implications of that proposal. The question was further discussed at two special sessions of NGLS sponsors, convened at Geneva in September and October 1991. Additional consultations on the question are expected to provide the basis of the recommendation of JUNIC to ACC.

29. In reviewing its existing projects, JUNIC noted with concern that financial support for the Development Forum was dwindling. The overwhelming majority of JUNIC members expressed their inability to increase their current level of contributions. It was suggested that the possibility of increased subvention from the regular budget of the United Nations, without which the publication could not be continued, should be further explored. It was hoped that a way could be found to retain this valuable publication.

30. JUNIC also examined the issue of participation in international exhibits. In that regard, it decided on joint participation by the United Nations in the Taejon International Exposition, to be held in the Republic of Korea from 7 August to 7 November 1993. It was agreed that the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat would act as the lead agency for the event, in accordance with the guidelines for joint participation by the United Nations system in international exhibitions. Following the receipt of a formal invitation, the Secretary-General accepted in principle the participation of the United Nations system in that event. The Department of Public Information has begun the preparation of a feasibility study for participation by the United Nations system in the event.

31. Discussion also continued on inter-agency cooperation in audio-visual productions, the main issue being the "Agenda IV" television series and Azimuths, a television magazine.

32. With regard to the proposal for a "United Nations system identity package", there was little progress made during the reporting period. JUNIC agreed that UNESCO should convene a meeting, with the participation of FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with a view to preparing a feasibility study on the issue. It was expected that, following consultations with their respective organizations, UNICEF, the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO) would also participate.

33. Though no report was prepared on the public image of the United Nations, the Chairman of JUNIC suggested exploring the possibility of convening a workshop on the subject, with the participation of directors of development agencies. A working group under the chairmanship of UNESCO (and including FAO, UNEP, WHO, UNICEF and the United Nations) was established for the purpose of preparing a feasibility study for the holding of an international information directors round table in 1992.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES

34. The ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities held its twenty-fifth session at Vienna from 10 to 14 June 1991. Twenty-two organizations participated. Participants included all but one of the regional commissions, as well as several major non-United Nations organizations whose statistical activities are important internationally and which participate in a variety of coordination arrangements with the statistical work of the United Nations system. The broad representation in the Subcommittee sessions has enabled more comprehensive coordination to be achieved. It also provides additional challenge in that these organizations bring their own special and disparate concerns to be taken into account.

35. The Subcommittee identified five issues of major importance and brought them to the attention of ACC. The first was the special challenge that existed for coordination of assistance in statistics to the transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The aim of such coordination was to deliver assistance that met country needs, avoided duplication and led to a rational allocation of resources. The Subcommittee noted that coordination in this area had improved. The second matter was coordination issues involved in strategies for statistical development in Africa. Many members of the Subcommittee were actively involved in special statistical programmes for Africa. The Subcommittee, while appreciating those activities, both substantive and coordination-related, expressed continuing concern about the need for coordination in such an undertaking. The third matter was the further progress made in a coordinated effort of several organizations towards monitoring the achievement of social goals in the 1990s, in particular the launching of a number of pilot studies through joint efforts. The fourth matter was the Subcommittee's consideration of the Human Development Report, issued by UNDP. Several members called attention to certain problems connected with the second edition of the Report. Most were continuations of problems that had been brought up at the previous session of the Subcommittee in relation to the first edition, including the question of coordination with international organizations. The Subcommittee considered that it would be useful to find ways to better institutionalize the role of the agencies and regional commissions in the timely planning and production of future issues. The fifth matter was environment statistics. The Subcommittee considered that a high degree of coordination had already been achieved among the statistical services but, in view of (a) an increased amount of activity related in part to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and (b) the relative newness of the field, additional challenges and opportunities for cooperation existed.

36. The Subcommittee also made recommendations and reached conclusions on ways to improve (a) coordination of data collection, compilation and dissemination and (b) development of concepts, definitions and recommendations within a wide range of statistical fields comprising, inter alia, international trade statistics; revision of the System of National Accounts; the International Comparison Programme; services statistics; demographic statistics, including population and housing censuses and the International

Programme for Accelerating the Improvement of Vital Statistics and Civil Registration Systems; social statistics and indicators; indicative patterns of consumption; tourism and migration statistics; and the World Programme of Industrial Statistics.

37. The Subcommittee also considered ways to maintain and improve the coordination of publication and dissemination policies for such activities as the servicing of ad hoc requests for data, dissemination of statistics and statistical databases to developing countries and secondary dissemination of statistical data. Methods to improve the coordinated development of databases both technically and in terms of content were also considered, along with the work of the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS) relevant to the work in statistics, in particular its activities related to the United Nations telecommunications network, work on computer security and database dissemination. The changing role of the statistical function in an international organization resulting particularly from the evolution of informatics was also considered. The Subcommittee reviewed the implications for technical cooperation in statistics of changes in UNDP and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) policies related to project execution and agency support costs and considered coordination of household survey programmes, in particular the National Household Survey Capability Programme, the Living Standards Measurement Study and the Social Dimensions of Adjustment Project; coordination of data-collection activities to reduce the reporting burden on countries; the base year for statistics, particularly indices of external trade; and coordinated actions required to follow-up decisions and recommendations that had been made by the Statistical Commission at its twenty-sixth session, in 1991.

38. The major output during the year, resulting from the coordinated effort of many members of the Subcommittee, was the publication of The World's Women 1970-1990. It had been prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in a joint effort with UNFPA, UNICEF, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). That publication, which made information on women available in a highly accessible form, was seen as both addressing major social issues and advancing the use of statistics. The suppliers of data and research material for the publication included FAO, WHO, UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION

39. The Subcommittee on Nutrition held its eighteenth session at UNFPA headquarters, New York, from 25 February to 1 March 1991. The symposium held on 25 and 26 February, entitled "Nutrition and population", emphasized breast-feeding, child-spacing and nutrition, and complementarities and possibilities for integrating health, population and nutrition programmes. A statement on the subject was agreed upon by the Subcommittee and brought to the attention

of ACC. Based on previous work, a statement on the control of iron deficiency - the most common nutritional deficiency affecting women, in particular - was prepared by the Advisory Group on Nutrition and also brought to the attention of ACC.

40. The eighteenth session was preceded by ad hoc group meetings on the control of iodine and vitamin A deficiency, which reported to the Subcommittee. Formation of a third group, on the control of iron deficiency, was approved by the Subcommittee following a preliminary meeting.

41. The Subcommittee considered reports on work in progress. In particular, preparations for the International Conference on Nutrition were discussed in detail. Proposals for a global micronutrient initiative were carefully considered, and although agreement was not reached at the session, the discussion stimulated further proposals later in the year.

42. At its executive session, the Subcommittee focused on the budget, which had faced a deficit in 1990 and an uncertain future owing largely to the substantial decline in contributions in real terms over the previous several years. It instructed the secretariat to investigate procedures to ensure a secure and predictable budget for the future.

43. In consultation with the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (Financial and Budgetary Questions) (CCAQ (FB)) and with certain member agencies, the secretariat proposed and circulated recommendations for a new finance and budget procedure. The issue was considered by CCAQ (FB) at its meeting in New York in September. This led to a special meeting of the Subcommittee - to which all United Nations member agencies were invited - convened by the Chairman of the Subcommittee at Geneva on 15 October. With anticipated extrabudgetary funding, a financing gap of about US$ 400,000 remains to be filled. Efforts to secure adequate funding for 1992-1993 continue. An outline budget for 1994-1995 will be prepared for the nineteenth session.

44. At the meeting of the Organizational Committee of ACC, held at UNESCO headquarters on 4 April, the summary report on the eighteenth session was presented. The Subcommittee was one of three ACC subsidiary bodies examined in detail and viewed as "one of the more successful" of the subsidiary bodies.

45. A sharp cutback in activities was implemented in 1991 to try to ensure that expenditures for the two-year period 1990-1991 did not exceed 1990 contributions and those pledged for 1991 (not all of which were received). This necessitated cutting back on Advisory Group meetings and other work not covered by extrabudgetary sources.

46. Work began in December 1990 on the preparation of a Second Report on the World Nutrition Situation, supported by extrabudgetary funds, to estimate trends in nutrition and related food, economic and social indicators by region and for all developing countries. Detailed case-studies on six populous countries (Brazil, Egypt, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan) were

commissioned. A database was compiled on women's nutritional status (mainly anthropometry and anaemia), and preliminary projections of trends to the year 2000 were considered. Publication of the report, which should also contribute to the International Conference on Nutrition, is planned for mid-1992.

47. Case-studies of national policies and programmes as they affect nutrition were initiated. The work, supported by UNICEF, started in 1990 and gathered momentum in 1991, with case-studies commissioned in four countries (India (two States), the United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand and Zimbabwe); two more countries are to be identified, selected partly to align with the UNICEF country programming cycle. The factors considered in the framework are those affecting food security, infectious disease and caring capacity, in line with the International Conference on Nutrition. The study should be completed in mid-1992, and results will be presented by nationals at the International Union of Nutritional Sciences meeting in 1993, and will be available for the Conference.

48. The Advisory Group on Nutrition held two meetings, in February and November, which were shortened owing to financial constraints. These led to a set of proposals for future activities for consideration by the Subcommittee at its nineteenth session.

49. An informal meeting was held in Toronto on 9 and 10 October, at which priority problems and possible future activities were discussed, for consideration by the Subcommittee at its nineteenth session. These included new initiatives on evaluation, training and institutions, research priorities and micronutrients.

50. The secretariat of the Subcommittee contributed to the methodology for the FAO Sixth World Food Survey, to a WHO preparatory meeting for an expert committee on anthropometry, and to considerations on nutritional surveillance initiated by UNICEF in September.

51. At the request of the co-sponsors of the International Conference on Nutrition - FAO and WHO - the secretariat prepared a draft theme paper for the Conference entitled "Assessing, analysing and monitoring the nutrition situation".

52. Several publications were issued: "Controlling iron deficiency", based on a workshop held in 1990, was published in early 1991; a policy brief entitled "Some options for improving nutrition in the 1990s", stemming from a meeting in November 1990 and reviewed by the Subcommittee at its eighteenth session, was published and distributed. A background document, entitled "Nutrition-relevant actions", which received financial support from the German Technical Assistance Corporation (GTZ), is in press. Material from a workshop held in 1989 on managing successful nutrition programmes is in press, with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. Papers from the 1991 symposium on nutrition and population are being finalized for publication. One issue of SCN News (No. 7), rather than the usual two, owing to budgetary constraints, was published, with support from the

Government of the Netherlands. A special issue of "Extracts from SCN News", on breast-feeding, was published in May, with support from UNICEF. The usual print runs for these publications is 4,000, distributed in bulk to and through member agencies (about 1,000), and by direct mail. The majority of these go to developing countries. "Uses of anthropometry" (paper No. 7) has been translated into French and Spanish (by UNICEF) and will be published by the Subcommittee in those languages.

VII. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE COORDINATION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

53. The sixth session of ACCIS was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 17 to 20 September 1991. In addition to that meeting, there were four meetings of technical panels and working groups and one meeting of the ACCIS Steering Committee.

54. In fulfilling its objective to facilitate access to United Nations system information by Member States, ACCIS, in 1991, developed a number of products:

(a) Register of Development Activities 1990. In conformance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/71 and General Assembly resolution 37/226, to produce a register of development activities, ACCIS publishes an annual register from data submitted by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In late 1991, the register containing data for 1990 was published. A survey of end-users was completed in 1991. In summary, the results indicate that the register is greatly appreciated as the sole comprehensive source of information on all development activities of the United Nations system. In the light of the survey results, ACC has requested that ACCIS continue publication of the register in its present form and the Economic and Social Council has so noted.

(b) Directory of Selected Collections of United Nations System Publications. In response to a need frequently expressed by both Member States and United Nations organizations, ACCIS compiled a list of collections available at the country level of United Nations system publications. The Directory lists, by country or geographic area, the location of libraries and documentation centres managed by the United Nations system, selected libraries or information services that maintain collections of United Nations publications, and United Nations information centres and services.

(c) Database dissemination. Access to United Nations databases is considered an area of need by Member States. It is a complex issue which has to be addressed in its totality to be effective. ACCIS has begun the process by getting the commitment of several United Nations organizations to share data in some of the bibliographic databases. Since those databases have been developed to different standards, ACCIS, in 1991, successfully developed computer programs that allow for conversion to the UNESCO common communication format for bibliographic description. As a result, data from some of the larger bibliographic databases of the system can be effectively merged to

provide information on United Nations publications by sector or United Nations source. Work is continuing, with the goal of providing more effective access to United Nations databases by Member States.

(d) ACCIS Newsletter. Six issues of the newsletter were distributed to a circulation list of 2,000 organizations and individuals in over 160 countries.

(e) Serial publications of the United Nations system. In 1988, ACCIS produced a directory of serial publications of the United Nations system. Work in 1991 consisted of the updating of the database in order to produce a revised printed edition.

(f) Exchange of development information. Realizing that improved cooperation between development aid donors is needed to prevent duplication of donor efforts and a waste of available resources, an informal study group on the exchange of development information has been formed. The group, in which ACCIS is a participant, consists of representatives from intergovernmental organizations, bilateral donors, non-governmental organizations and research institutes. At its sixth session, in 1991, ACCIS agreed to supply United Nations system data on development activities from its database to this study group, thereby saving individual organizations the additional costs of supplying data on an individual basis.

(g) Macrothesaurus. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1982/71, requested that ACCIS compile, update and popularize common indexing vocabularies at the generic level. To carry out that request, ACCIS determined that its secretariat should collaborate with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the preparation of the fourth edition of the Macrothesaurus. Published in 1991, the Macrothesaurus has been well received by Member States and United Nations organizations. In the ongoing support for the database, as well as the preparation of subsequent editions of the printed product, the ACCIS secretariat will serve as liaison between users within the organizations and the database staff at OECD. This will involve the vetting of new terms and changes for inclusion, as well as informing users within the United Nations system of changes in procedures and policy.

55. To promote improvement in the information infrastructure of the United Nations system, the work of ACCIS included the following activities:

(a) United Nations Telecommunications Network. In 1989, ACCIS had assisted with the preparation of the documentation required for the passage of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) resolution COM8/1 (Nice, 1989), by which permission was granted to the United Nations to carry the telecommunications traffic of the specialized agencies, subject to specified conditions. During 1991, ACCIS assisted the United Nations in determining the needs of the specialized agencies. The United Nations will now continue to work with agencies on a one-on-one basis and present a status report to ACCIS when it convenes in 1993.

(b) Information security. Responding to a need frequently voiced by the Panel of External Auditors for greater security of the information stored in United Nations system computers, ACCIS has prepared information system security guidelines. The guidelines were endorsed by ACC for transmittal to CCAQ (FB) and the international auditors of United Nations system organizations. The guidelines were presented to the Panel of Auditors of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and IAEA by the Chairman of ACCIS when it met in London in December 1991.

(c) Management of electronic records. In 1988-1989, ACCIS addressed the question of management of electronic records by producing guidelines for use by United Nations organizations. In 1990-1991, it examined how the guidelines could be implemented and which standards for electronic records management were necessary for their implementation. In 1991, it produced a report on records management functions and open systems standards, held a workshop on electronic records management and prepared a survey of electronic records practices in United Nations organizations. The workshop was held in Washington, D.C., for participants from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and at Vienna, for organizations of the United Nations system based there. A senior management briefing on the subject was conducted at WHO headquarters, Geneva.

(d) Information management, strategies and standards. Since the use of the same standards has been envisaged to meet specific needs in different areas of the information system activities of United Nations organizations, ACCIS decided, in 1991, to establish a technical panel to examine the applicability of standards in a global approach to information management. Included among these standards are open systems interconnection (OSI), X.400 Message Handling Service and X.500 Directory Service.

(e) Clearing-house service. In 1991, ACCIS created a clearing-house service of United Nations system-wide reports on standards, strategies and job descriptions relating to information systems and services. The service will be managed by the secretariat staff within existing resources.

(f) Optical storage technology. In 1991, ACCIS reviewed the issue of optical storage technology for use by United Nations organizations. Based on its observations, it has requested that the secretariat carry out a detailed survey of the present and planned use by United Nations organizations of optical storage technology, including WORM (write-once-read-many) and CD ROM formats. The study will include an assessment of the current state of the technology, the availability of international standards and recommendations for use.

(g) Inter-library cooperation, standards and management. At its sixth session, ACCIS established a Technical Panel on Inter-Library Cooperation, Standards and Management. Among the issues identified for consideration by the Panel were the introduction of automated systems to libraries, where they were lacking; development of a uniform catalogue as a preliminary stage for developing a central electronic library for the United Nations system;

standards required for inter-connectivity and interworking between libraries; and an inventory of current resources and problems in the United Nations library community.

56. ACCIS continued to provide advice on information systems and computerized databases to United Nations organizations and member States as requested.

VIII. INTER-AGENCY CONSULTATION ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE 1990s

57. The first inter-agency consultation on the follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in September 1990, was held at Geneva on 1 and 2 July 1991. The consultation provided an opportunity for an exchange of information and views between agencies on follow-up activities undertaken so far and planned at various levels in the light of the Programme of Action itself and the decisions taken thereon by the General Assembly. Participants reviewed arrangements at the global level for review and monitoring of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action; the follow-up undertaken at the national level; and action taken by individual organizations, as well as their contributions to the global level follow-up.

58. Underlying the discussions at the inter-agency consultation were the new challenges confronting the United Nations system in pursuit of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action. It was emphasized that agencies had an important role to play in providing financial and technical assistance to the least developed countries. Also stressed during the discussions was the need for agencies to assume an advocacy and advisory role vis-à-vis the least developed countries. Attention was drawn to the problems and needs of those countries and to the necessity of mobilizing international support, including new financial resources, for them as well as assisting them to implement required policies. With respect to the latter, several participants noted the emerging need for agency activities to be increasingly geared to a more policy-oriented role, and to the elaboration of sectoral strategies, in assisting the least developed countries in implementing the Programme of Action.

59. The consultation reiterated the importance of the country review process, which constituted the principal mechanism for implementation of and follow-up to the Programme of Action at the national level, and agreed that the contributions of agencies to the process needed to be enhanced; ways and means had to be found to organize inter-agency cooperation in that regard and to strengthen the capacities of agencies and their involvement in this area. It was agreed that the matter should be reviewed at the next inter-agency consultation, as well as by the Consultative Committee on Substantive Questions (Operational Activities) (CCSQ (OPS)).

60. The consultation welcomed the decisions taken by the governing bodies of a number of organizations. The importance of strengthened efforts of the agencies in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action at the national level, within their respective fields of competence, was underscored. Moreover, the consultation reiterated the need for establishing focal points for the least developed countries in agencies, where they did not exist, and strengthening existing ones. The focal points should be of a substantive nature, with adequate capacity, and should also prepare for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action at the sectoral level, which has been set out in General Assembly resolution 45/206 as a new element in the follow-up process. While the exact time-frame of sectoral appraisal meetings should be decided by individual organizations, it was agreed that at least one or two such meetings should be organized before the mid-term review of the Programme of Action in 1995.

61. Also mentioned during the course of the consultation as areas in which a strengthening of inter-agency collaboration was needed were the issues of refugees and mass-scale population displacement in the least developed countries and the delivery of related emergency assistance, as well as the problem of AIDS.

62. This first stock-taking of follow-up activities to the Programme of Action within the United Nations system has given a useful basis for planning further action at the secretariat level, contributing to the mobilization of all parts of the system and to the necessary coordination of activities. Strengthening the links between the various levels of follow-up to the Programme of Action (national, regional and global) should also be seen as an important outcome of the meeting as well as of planned future consultations.

IX. INTER-AGENCY GROUP ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

63. Members of the Inter-Agency Group have continued to cooperate with one another as part of the overall objectives of coordination of their activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy.

64. During its tenth session, in March 1991, the Group was briefed on the deliberations of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its fifth session, and considered actions to be taken in preparation of the sixth session of the Committee. Individual members of the Group made presentations on current and planned activities by their respective entities at the national, regional and/or global levels covering a wide range of activities as part of the coordination and cooperation efforts.

65. An important focus of the Group was the emerging consensus on the role of new and renewable sources of energy in achieving sustainable development with reduced adverse environmental impacts. The Group agreed that this focus should receive increasing attention by the United Nations system, as should the promotion of the rapid transfer of those technologies to developing countries.

66. The spirit of cooperation and collaboration was exemplified during the tenth session of the Group by the consideration of a draft report by FAO entitled "Energy policy for rural development: a review of inter-agency coordination", which focused on the activities in this area by five United Nations bodies, namely, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, FAO, UNEP, UNESCO and the World Bank. The Group commended the report as an important beginning in a series of such exercises, highlighting areas of concrete cooperation and coordination of activities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, and concluded that there was a need for a common approach and methodology for evaluating projects of this type.

67. At a later date, UNDP circulated to the members of the Group a report entitled "Strategy for disseminating and commercializing renewable energy technology". The report underlines the lack of follow-up to the numerous projects financed by multilateral/bilateral organizations for demonstrating technical and financial viability of new and renewable sources of energy technologies over the years. The report, which focuses on photovoltaic technologies, includes an examination of financial and institutional barriers to commercialization concentrating on policy and markets.

68. The Group concluded that there was a need for a United Nations system-wide mechanism that could articulate policies on important energy matters, in which the Group could play an important role in evaluating, discussing, analysing and articulating related topics, for example, energy planning, as well as energy conservation and efficiency of use - in a broad sense, including environment and economic development.

69. Since the tenth session, members of the Group have actively participated in several sessions of the United Nations Solar Energy Group on Environment and Development, which has prepared a report entitled "Solar energy: a strategy in support of environment and development" (A/AC.218/1992/S/Rev.1) for consideration by the Committee at its sixth session and by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its fourth session. The report will be submitted to the Conference.

70. Consultations and exchange of information in relation to the preparations for the sixth session of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy have continued and data provided by individual members of the Group have been incorporated into the input of the Secretary-General for consideration by the Committee at its sixth session.

X. INTERSECRETARIAT GROUP FOR WATER RESOURCES

71. The twelfth session of the ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources was held at FAO headquarters from 25 to 27 September 1991. The session was preceded by the meeting of the Steering Committee on Water Supply and Sanitation, on 23 and 24 September. The main issues under consideration by the Group were the preparations for the International Conference on Water and

the Environment and the follow-up to the strategy for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s, including the International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development, for which FAO serves as the lead agency.

72. Concerning the International Conference on Water and the Environment, the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, at its third session, agreed that it would be a conference on government-designated experts, and serve the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The results of the International Conference would be reviewed by the Preparatory Committee at its fourth session. Three sessions of the Intersecretariat Group's Steering Committee of the International Conference on Water and the Environment were held during the course of the year in order to define the scope of the Conference and to determine the tasks to be undertaken by each organization within the preparatory process.

73. In accordance with the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the major themes for the International Conference would be integrated water resources development and management; water resources assessment and impact of climate change on water resources; protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems; water and sustainable urban development and drinking water supply and sanitation in the urban context; water for sustainable food production and rural development and drinking water supply and sanitation in the rural context; and mechanisms for implementation and coordination at the global, national, regional and local levels.

74. In the future, the Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources will focus on issues of cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the strategy for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s, and the recommendations stemming from the International Conference on Water and the Environment and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development concerning the freshwater resources component of Agenda 21. At its forthcoming session, the Group will focus its attention on issues related to water resources assessment, protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems, water for sustainable urban development, water for sustainable rural and agricultural development, and integrated water resources management. The promotion of an integrated approach to the development and management of water resources will constitute the central theme for the deliberations of the Group.

XI. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES

75. The Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was held at the headquarters of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), Geneva, from 18 to 20 September 1991. The Meeting considered the items on its agenda, reviewing activities requiring coordination and discussing several matters of mutual interest relating to the programming of activities, with a view to avoiding duplication.

76. In its detailed consideration of matters to be included in the integrated report of the Secretary-General on the programmes of work of United Nations organizations, the Meeting had before it a draft of the annual report of the Secretary-General entitled "Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system, programmes of work for 1992, 1993 and future years". The draft contained information on activities and programmes involving the applications of space technology in the fields of remote sensing of the Earth, communications, meteorology, navigation, disaster management and other related fields. Suggestions and comments will be incorporated in the final text of the report, to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its twenty-ninth session, in 1992, in document A/AC.105/491. In the context of preparing the report, the agencies negotiated various aspects of their participation in the projects to be undertaken in the period 1992-1993.

77. The Meeting addressed a number of issues, including an evaluation of activities supported by the United Nations, in its review of cooperation by organizations of the United Nations system in remote-sensing activities. The Meeting focused on what should be the emphasis of such support in the future. The participants agreed, among other things, that workshops, seminars and meetings on new and advanced remote-sensing systems were needed for the benefit of decision and policy makers in the developing countries in order for them to enhance their capacity to manage and harness their natural resources. Also, in view of the meagre resources of each department and agency of the United Nations and the need to avoid duplication of efforts, it was necessary to foster inter-agency participation in those projects.

78. Noting the effort being made by the United Nations to enhance the capabilities of the developing countries in space science and technology through the establishment, in existing regional/national institutions, of centres of education at the regional level to meet regional needs, the Meeting had before it three project documents prepared by the Outer Space Affairs Division on the establishment of the centre for space science and technology education for the benefit of member States of the African region, of the Asia and Pacific region and of the Latin American and Caribbean region, respectively. After a detailed discussion of the project documents, the Meeting noted that, while the United Nations had taken an important initiative that could be generally supported, there were several areas of concern with regard to implementation that needed to be addressed before proceeding to the next stage of implementation.

79. Participants at the Meeting were cognizant of the fact that the General Assembly, in resolution 45/72, had urged Member States and international organizations to consider supporting the efforts of the United Nations in connection with International Space Year, 1992, and the recommendation that those activities complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also planned for 1992. At the previous Meeting, the United Nations was requested to ask all organizations of the system for information on activities to be included in the programme for International Space Year and for a revision of the guidebook on United Nations

participation in the Year, accordingly. The Meeting had before it the revised guidebook and reviewed the progress of International Space Year activities, agreeing to continue to cooperate on the proposed activities. It was further agreed that information on future activities planned for the Year, when finalized, would be published as supplements to the guidebook.

80. Concerning other matters, the Meeting noted the preparation of interdisciplinary remote-sensing programmes by several agencies, especially on the study and monitoring of the environment. The Meeting reviewed the project document, submitted by FAO following requests made at the previous session, for a joint inter-agency project on land use and vegetation mapping of Africa, based on satellite remote sensing. Stressing its importance for Africa, the Meeting strongly supported the proposed project and agreed that detailed technical comments would be communicated by interested organizations directly to FAO.

81. The Meeting also noted that, owing to the work being carried out by the Inter-agency Meeting, the concerns expressed by various intergovernmental committees, particularly the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, relating to the duplication of efforts in the work of various organizations of the United Nations system, had been satisfactorily dealt with and that those committees had positively commented on the work of the Inter-agency Meeting in their recent reports.

XII. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON WOMEN

82. The fifteenth Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women was held at Vienna on 11 and 12 March 1991. The representatives of the agencies expressed their concern about the continued lack of coordination in the contribution of the United Nations system to intergovernmental bodies, documents and publications. That was reflected in their request to hold the Inter-agency Meeting on Women biannually in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and to hold the regular meeting before the session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

83. The Meeting elaborated further on recommendations made by the Commission at its thirty-fifth session, by identifying important areas that should be included in reports on the priority themes, monitoring the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and in the report on operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations system. Reporting responsibilities and attendance at meetings still presented a burden on limited resources.

84. With regard to the reports for the Commission on the Status of Women on the priority themes, additional areas of emphasis were identified. In the equality report, issues such as access to land, water and financial resources, the level of participation in agrarian reform, inheritance rights and ownership were considered important for developing countries. In the report on the integration of women in development, the role of national machinery as

a catalyst to effective mainstreaming of women and a life-course approach to development strategies were considered the main points. For the report on women and the environment, it was considered essential to raise the issue to the political level and include information on transnational companies, refugee and migrant women, shelter and use of the environment. The report for the priority theme on peace would be based on the meetings on women in public life, but, subsequent to the Meeting, the interregional consultation on women in public life was postponed owing to the lack of financial resources.

85. With regard to publications, the merits and focus of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development were discussed in the light of the publication of The World's Women, 1970-1990. It was strongly felt that duplication should be avoided and that a review should be undertaken for the current publications regarding mandates, cost estimates, periodicity, target audiences, impact and focus. The forthcoming 1994 edition of the World Survey should concentrate on major emerging issues and should reflect action strategies and plans in order to be useful at the national and academic levels in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.

86. The representatives at the Inter-agency Meeting expressed concern that the Commission on the Status of Women had not addressed problems such as population and unequal economic relations in its resolution on the preparations for the World Conference on Women. The results of a three-year analysis on a coordinated approach to strengthen national machinery, planned by the United Nations Development Fund for Women, would be presented to the World Conference.

87. Following the recommendation by the Commission that more women be nominated and recruited to United Nations posts, the Meeting recommended that the obligation be extended to the recruitment of experts and consultants.

88. As to operational activities, the Meeting recommended that the issue of women in development be mainstreamed into all chapters of the report on operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations system, in addition to the separate chapter on women requested by the General Assembly in resolution 44/171. The participants at the Meeting discussed and identified the important areas they considered should be included in the report.

XIII. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY

89. In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 44/82 and 45/133 and on the recommendation of the Coordinator for the International Year of the Family, the Administrative Committee on Coordination approved the establishment of ad hoc inter-agency meetings on the International Year of the Family, in order to develop a system-wide coordinated approach and actions aimed at assisting Governments in preparing for and observing the Year. The first Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on the International Year of the Family was

convened on 13 and 14 March 1991. Its agenda included a review of family-related mandates and programmes of the organizations, agencies and bodies of the United Nations system; an assessment of the role of the system in the preparations for and observance of the Year; and the establishment of inter-agency cooperation on the Year.

90. The meeting concluded that a distinct vision and clarity of purpose was necessary for the preparations of the Year and that the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system should assist in achieving those objectives, especially at the local, national and regional levels. Its recommendations included the preparation of a technical paper on such issues as conceptualization, typologies, structures and functions concerning the family, in order to develop a general approach; identification of specific themes for the Year that highlight the dimension of each agency's mandate; strengthening the role of field and regional offices in promoting local and national action; and devoting special attention to projects relating to refugee families.

XIV. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON DISABLED PERSONS

91. While the focus of the United Nations disability programme is being turned from awareness-raising efforts to action, it is envisaged that there is a need for continuing and even intensifying cooperation among agencies.

92. The ninth inter-agency meeting on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, held at Vienna from 3 to 6 December 1991, discussed the joint preparation of a long-term strategy in the field of disability beyond the Decade. It was suggested that the strategy be based on yearly priority themes, which would be taken into account in the regular activities of each of the agencies. In that context, the inter-agency meeting would consider the suggestion that the function of the meeting in the monitoring of the strategy would be:

(a) To inform the participating agencies about both the progress made during the year concerning the selected priority theme and the activities planned to be undertaken around "the theme of the year";

(b) To consult and cooperate on those activities and make the necessary adjustments to the strategy and the themes.

93. A major feature of future inter-agency meetings on disability questions is that there will be a post-Decade strategy, with particular focus on its yearly themes. This is all the more pertinent as the mandate of the inter-agency mechanism on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons will expire in 1992.

XV. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON YOUTH

94. The eighth meeting of the informal inter-agency working group at the technical level on youth was held at Vienna on 30 and 31 May 1991.

95. The agenda of the meeting included a review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth; discussions held by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session on the integration of young people into society; preparations for the observance of the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year; inter-agency approaches towards improving the channels of communication between the United Nations system and youth and youth organizations; follow-up to International Literacy Year (1990); and the United Nations Volunteers programme and its potential, particularly at the field level.

96. Discussions focused predominantly on the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year, in 1995. The working group emphasized the need for intensified cooperation among all youth-related organizations and agencies of the United Nations system towards achieving the major specific tasks in connection with the tenth anniversary, namely:

(a) Preparation of a calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of International Youth Year;

(b) Review and appraisal of progress achieved and obstacles identified in implementing the objectives of the Year;

(c) Preparation of a draft world youth programme of action towards the year 2000 and beyond;

(d) The need to reinforce youth programmes and projects through overall national policy and institutional support;

(e) An efficient mechanism for interministerial cooperation and coordination and interdisciplinary approaches for an overall national youth policy;

(f) Improved techniques for scientific evaluation and assessment of the world youth programme of action.

97. It was further recommended that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat prepare a comprehensive draft outline, which should also comprise the specific procedural details for such preparations, and circulate it to member agencies for their comments. In consultation with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, a multidisciplinary team of specialists in the field of youth should be established with the task of formulating a draft world youth programme of action.

98. In the preparations for a calendar of activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the Year, the Centre should circulate a list of concrete and specific suggestions for informational, promotional and substantive activities to concerned organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, for their review and comments. Agencies and organizations should also explore all possibilities to plan appropriate activities within their own work programmes for inclusion in the draft calendar of activities.

XVI. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON AGEING

99. The fourth Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Ageing was held at Vienna on 21 and 22 February 1991. The agenda included a review of current activities of the United Nations system in the area of ageing; preparations for the tenth anniversary, in 1992, of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing; and identification of targets on ageing and means of reaching them by the year 2001.

100. The meeting also focused on future inter-agency cooperation in the context of the implementation of the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, including formulation of a global strategy on ageing to the year 2001 and launching of a global information campaign to observe, in 1992, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing; elaboration of a system-wide medium-term plan on ageing; observation of the International Day for the Elderly and preparation of a new edition of the World Ageing Situation.

XVII. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETINGS ON COORDINATION IN MATTERS OF INTERNATIONAL DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

101. During 1991, two Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meetings on Coordination in Matters of International Drug Abuse Control were held.

102. At the Meeting held in Vienna on 10 May 1991, participants agreed on the need for improved coordination to permit increased effectiveness in discharging the mandates entrusted to the United Nations in drug abuse control. Focusing on the practical requirements for coordination, the following priorities were identified: (a) exchange of information; (b) agreement on areas of competence and responsibilities; (c) identification of shared interests and potential for collaborative action; (d) pooling of resources; and (e) implementation of joint projects. It was noted that, at the first regular session of ACC in 1991, it was decided that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) should participate fully in the work of ACC.

103. Special interest was expressed in the emerging organizational structure of UNDCP, with its exclusive responsibility for coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities. That would enable the United Nations to strengthen its role as the main focus for

concerted international action for drug abuse control, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 45/179. Participants discussed the implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action, with special reference to developing linkages among entities, guidelines for the preparation of the 1991 report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in drug abuse control, the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse and other special events, including the 1991 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June), and recognized the need to highlight the impact of such events throughout the United Nations system, as well as at the national level.

104. Participants agreed on the continuing usefulness of the inter-agency meetings, complemented by a number of other possible arrangements, including periodic consultations between UNDCP and the relevant agencies and programmes.

105. Following the decision taken at the Meeting, the first issue of a periodic circular, Inter-agency Update, was published in September 1991 as a means of facilitating the exchange of information among the focal points for drug abuse control and the identification of projects for collaborative action.

106. The Inter-agency Meeting, held at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), London, from 11 to 13 September 1991, discussed the further development of the structure and coordinating mechanisms of UNDCP, including the creation of a new Division for Inter-organization Cooperation, to assist in promoting coordination and cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system, as well as with national, regional and international organizations. A number of aspects of coordination, in particular joint planning and programming, coordination at the field level and a strengthened information management system, were outlined.

107. In the discussion on the implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action, the participants reviewed the International Drug Abuse Assessment System established by UNDCP. UNDCP was in the process of computerizing the great volume of accumulated information provided by Governments, which would also include, inter alia, information from other databases, such as the UNDP Human Development database and other government-generated or supported data sources to provide a more comprehensive analysis of drug abuse in countries, subregions, regions and world wide.

108. Recalling the request of the General Assembly, in resolution 45/179, that the System-Wide Action Plan be reviewed in the light of structural changes decided on in that resolution, it was announced that UNDCP would circulate a draft report early in 1992.

109. The Meeting considered the draft report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in drug abuse control and entrusted to UNDCP the task of editing and incorporating modifications in the present and future reports of the Secretary-General. The Meeting agreed that reports to the

General Assembly on the subject should in future, cover a full calendar year; a transitional report would be prepared for submission to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in 1992.

110. It was agreed that UNDCP would endeavour to provide suggestions for possible approaches to the observance of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. It was noted that the general theme for the Decade, "Preventing drug abuse: all together against a common threat", could be supplemented by special sub-themes to be highlighted in connection with the annual observance of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. It was suggested that, at the earliest convenient date, UNDCP could organize a consultation with the main non-governmental organization committees to provide thorough briefings, help determine future action, and seek enhanced collaboration with non-governmental organizations in connection with the Decade.

111. Informal parallel consultations held during the Inter-agency Meeting in London covered emerging aspects relating to demand reduction. A revised interactive way of developing policy and technical projects was outlined. At the initiative of UNDCP, it was agreed to move forward by discussing policy issues in substantive areas, and to develop agreed policy positions, as well as to implement joint country investigations which would yield plans for cooperative programmes. It was agreed that the topic "Inter-agency collaboration on demand reduction programmes" should be included on the proposed agenda for the Inter-agency Meeting in September 1992.

XVIII. AD HOC INTER-AGENCY MEETING ON SECURITY MATTERS

112. Coordinated action by the organizations of the United Nations system in all matters relating to the safety and security of staff members, their spouses and dependants is of great importance. As in previous years, the United Nations Security Coordinator, acting on behalf of the Secretary-General, has served as the focal point in ensuring inter-agency cooperation on security matters and a coherent response by the organizations of the United Nations system to any emergency situations. He has also been responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing inter-agency security and safety programmes.

113. As a result of the general worsening in the global security situation, and following discussions between the United Nations Security Coordinator and UNDP, and several other organizations and offices, it was decided to convene an ad hoc inter-agency meeting on security matters to explore ways of enhancing inter-agency coordination and of ensuring the safety and security of personnel of the system. This was the fifth such meeting on the subject and was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 10 to 13 June 1991.

114. The ad hoc inter-agency meeting addressed such issues as the security and independence of the international civil service, expenditures relating to inter-organizational security measures, life and accident insurance at

hazardous duty stations, residential security arrangements, developments in emergency communications, evacuation and other allowances and arrangements for local staff. The meeting reviewed, and submitted to ACC for its approval, a revised Field Security Handbook, containing technical information for use by officials directly concerned with security, as well as information of an organizational and administrative nature agreed upon by CCAQ for the administration of entitlements during security emergencies. The provisions of the Field Security Handbook, which were approved by ACC, will be implemented effective 1 January 1992.